

Severus Snape: Lily's Alpha, Lily's Mate

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Severus Snape: Lily's Alpha, Lily's Mate

by [Mermaid886](#)

Summary

During Severus Snape's final year at Hogwarts, his beloved Lily discovers she's an omega. The young alpha decides that what he wants most in the world is to claim her as his own and keep her by his side, forever. A sweet romance about Severus and Lily mating, marrying, and raising a family together. Updates every Saturday!

Notes

See the end of the work for [notes](#)

- Translation into 中文-普通话 國語 available: [【斯莉】莉莉的Alpha](#) by [hokutoxhokuto](#)

Chapter 1

Thank you for reading! Please let me know if you enjoy! I don't own any of Harry Potter!
Updates every Saturday!

At Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, the final academic year was an exciting time for students. Not only was graduation on the horizon, but individuals were starting to choose their paths and pursue their futures. For many, the ages reached during that final academic year also meant that it would be revealed whether they were alpha, omega, or beta.

Two best friends, Lily Evans, a bright, red headed girl from Gryffindor and Severus Snape, a black-haired, tall Slytherin boy were faced with those same delightful struggles.

Severus had learned he was an alpha over the previous summer, just like his rival, James Potter.

The fact that he was an alpha came as no surprise to Severus, but it wasn't something he shared with Lily when they returned to school that August.

Severus found it inappropriate.

Not to mention that he had little time, in between the school year resuming and Lily's recent absences from class, Severus didn't have long to dwell on himself.

He was too busy studying or worrying about Lily.

Severus Snape's thoughts often lingered on Lily Evans.

When she finally returned from a week-long illness, Severus tried not to leap for joy as he watched her walk towards him down the stone corridor.

"Hey, Sev!" Lily greeted him with a smile, calling him by his pet name that he allowed only her to use.

"Hello, Lily." Severus replied with a smile, "It's good to see you back."

"It's good to be back! Can I copy your herbology notes from last week? Sorry, I was ill again." Lily asked sheepishly.

"Of course." Severus Snape shrugged, rustling through his books. Severus found his herbology notes and handed them to Lily as they both sat down on the stone bench in the open hallway, "Are you feeling any better?"

"A bit, mostly.....yes." Lily shrugged absently as she started copying.

While they sat on the outer edge of the courtyard, Severus watched Lily's red hair blow in the breeze that whistled past them both and he went on, "I-er, everyone.....was worried."

“It was nothing serious.....” Lily said casually as she raised her green eyes up to Severus, “It was just.....”

Severus sighed inwardly.

Was it that bad, whatever it was?

Severus gazed at Lily longingly, silently urging her to reveal to him what she had gone through.

Lily cleared her throat and Severus murmured so no one else would hear, “Lily, you know you can tell me anything.....”

Lily glanced around cautiously for a moment and then she bent forward, urging Severus to do the same.

Severus inclined his head, forcing himself to turn his ear towards Lily, not his lips, so she could whisper to him, “It’s...it’s been coming for awhile but I....I finally had my first heat.”

Severus’s eyes widened.

Lily was.....Lily was an omega?

“Oh.....” Severus drawled in realization, “I-I thought they made pills to help with that?”

“Well, they do.” Lily said, “I’m taking them now, you see, but the first time kind of threw me off. They thought it’d be best if they kept me away from everyone else, you know.....”

“Yes.” Severus nodded, “That was wise.”

Lily went back to copying Severus’s notes and they sat in silence together for a while, while Lily worked and Severus mulled things over.

Severus had his hopeful suspicions, but hearing her confirm his guess as factual information, that was surprising.

Lily never missed school, over their student careers, Severus had seen her sitting in class so ill that she could barely keep her eyes open.

Over the previous week, Severus had been certain that she was either dying or there was another reason for her missing her studies.

But Lily, poor Lily.

Lily was an omega, a vulnerable, sweet omega~.

Severus realized he wasn’t the only alpha who would salivate at that knowledge.

His biggest worry was James Potter. James was his personal tormentor and rival. James was a friend of Lily’s friends who refused to leave her alone and continued to pursue her, no matter

how much she rejected him.

Severus braced himself inwardly.

He knew that James Potter would do everything he could to steal the redhead from him, especially when James found out the news.

No matter how quietly secrets are whispered, they have a way of spreading, especially amongst a group of students.

Though Severus kept Lily's words to him a secret, somehow, it soon became common knowledge that Lily was an omega.

And Severus was an alpha.

An alpha in love~.

Severus had come to terms with his feelings for Lily. Though the couple never outwardly spoke of romance, Lily was content to spend hours studying and chatting with Severus. She even let him lay his head on her lap when they sat underneath the tree in the courtyard.

Severus's love for Lily was deep and unchanging, but when she returned from her weeklong absence, Severus found his feelings for his darling flower had been amplified.

Severus could smell Lily's sweet scent across the room and never before had he felt such an urge to protect her, to watch over her.

It was odd, really. There were many omegas at Hogwarts, but their scents never affected Severus the way Lily's did.

Lily, likewise, wanted to spend even more time with Severus. She enjoyed being beside him or just simply close to him, which Severus took as a compliment.

Nearly one month after her missed week of school, when classes ended for the day, Lily asked Severus something odd while they walked down the corridor together, "Hey, Sev?"

"Yes?" Severus blinked.

"This is going to sound weird, I know...But.....do you have like....a nightshirt you could lend me?" Lily asked sheepishly.

"A.....what?" Severus asked incredulously.

"A.....um, you know, a nightshirt or one of your Slytherin ties.....or....uh.....something....." Lily shrugged.

Severus was just about to respond when someone stepped on his robe from behind and caused him to slip. The books in his arms slipped from his grasp as he fell to the floor with a

great crash.

“Sev!” Lily exclaimed, bending down to help Severus up.

“Need to watch where you’re walking, Snivelly~.” A voice laughed from behind them.

Lily and Severus quickly looked up in the direction of the voice. Severus narrowed his eyes at who he saw standing a short distance away.

“James, you bullying toerag! You did that on purpose!” Lily snapped at the unwelcome boy. Severus watched his rival cross his arms and smirk at him and Lily both.

“Did what, Evans?” James asked innocently, “Just remember, Snivelly, a real alpha can walk on their own two feet.”

Instinctively wanting to nurture, Lily moved to help Severus up but the glare he cast her when she did told her to stay back.

Lily’s eagerness was innocent. Omegas were caring and kind, especially to alphas they fancied.....but in Severus’s position, to accept an omega’s help back to his feet in front of his rival would be humiliating.

The redhead silently understood.

Allowing her friend to keep his dignity intact as much as possible, Lily fell silent and watched with a frown as Severus picked himself off of the stone floor and gathered his books.

James and his friends snickered and walked off, but not before he paused to blow Lily a kiss, which earned a grimace from the angry omega.

When James was gone and Severus adjusted his grip on his books, that was when Lily saw it.

A gleaming flash of wet, bright red, contrasting strikingly with the black sleeve of his school robe.

“Sev! You’re hurt!” Lily cried.

“It’s just a small cut, it’ll be fine.” Severus said nonchalantly, although he did secretly enjoy earning Lily’s concern.

“It’ll be hard for you to do it with one hand.....Please, Sev.....” Lily asked, “Let me bandage it for you?”

Severus’s black eyes widened and he gazed at Lily admiringly.

The beautiful, sweet girl he desired with all of his heart.....she wanted to.....care for him?

Severus pretended to consider Lily’s offer for a moment before he replied, feigning reluctance, “.....Alright.”

In the middle of the day, there were few people in the Slytherin common room, but to give themselves a bit more privacy, Severus and Lily sat on the steps that led up to the dormitories while she gently cleansed and cared for the cut on his arm.

There were moments when it was painful but Severus just grit his teeth, determined not to flinch.

“I’m not trying to hurt you, Sev.” Lily said gently, realizing that what she was doing surely didn’t feel comfortable.

“I know, I’m fine. Don’t worry about me.” Severus replied quietly, watching how focused Lily was as her delicate fingers tied his bandage.

“I do worry about you, Sev.....” Lily confessed.

Severus had watched Lily the entire time that she was tending his arm. That was one of Severus’s favorite pastimes, actually, watching Lily.

She was so beautiful, how was he supposed to look away?

Severus blinked as Lily flickered her emerald stare up at him once she was finished.

“All better.” Lily said with a kind smile.

“T-Thank you, Lily.” Severus said, swallowing thickly.

There in the darkness of the stone staircase, Severus realized just how easy it would be to reach out and grab Lily by the face. It would be so simple to pull her close to him, and press his lips against hers.....but Severus wasn’t that kind of alpha.

Severus had more emotions than most and more respect.

He was very mindful of Lily’s feelings.

What if she didn’t want that?

What if she pushed him away and ran off, frightened?

Severus didn’t realize that Lily was actually considering kissing him too, but she was waiting on him to approach her.

The dark stairway hid her blushing cheeks well.

After a moment passed and Severus didn’t move, Lily’s smile fell in disappointment and she cleared her throat before she asked, “Since we’re so close to the dormitory, would you mind lending me that shirt....or tie...?”

“Oh.....of course.” Severus said, leaping to his feet too quickly, “Which one do you prefer?”

“Whichever.” Lily said with a shrug.

“May I ask what this is for?” Severus blinked.

It was still a mystery to him why she wanted his clothing so badly.

Severus didn’t know much about omegas and their habits.

That was blazingly apparent to Lily.

“I’d rather not say, Sev.” She replied quietly.

“Lily, I meant what I said.....you can tell me anything.” Severus reassured as he crouched down on the steps to be eye level with her, “I thought we were friends?”

“We are friends, Sev.” Lily said with a smile, unconsciously leaning in closer to Severus so their faces were inches apart, “Best friends.....”

The unspoken attraction between the alpha and omega bested them both. Lily’s emerald eyes glanced down at Severus’s thin lips and then back to his orbs of molten coal. Severus’s breath hitched in his throat as he moved, slowly and cautiously closer to Lily, bristling as his instincts to claim her prickled up his spine.

Sensing that Severus was ultimately waiting on her consent, Lily closed her eyes and closed the distance between them first, giving Severus a kiss with her soft, plump lips.

The response from the alpha was immediate and Lily squeaked in surprise and pleasure as the force of Severus’s response pushed her back against the stone wall. Lily held Severus’s face in her hands as his slender arms coiled around her waist. Their kiss was full of sweet passion, surging until Severus nipped at Lily’s lips and she obediently parted for him, allowing his curious tongue to delve into her mouth.

“I need to nest, Severus.” Lily whispered heatedly.

Severus wasn’t entirely certain of what exactly Lily meant, but the possibilities made his manhood throb in his trousers.

“I.....I have to.....I want it to.....” Lily gasped as Severus continued their kiss, “.....Smell just like you.”

Severus pulled back and looked at Lily with his black eyes wide in disbelief.

“I thought you were taking the pills?” He asked, scanning over Lily’s face.

“Um, well, yes, Severus. I am, but they don’t quell everything. Madam Pomfrey said they won’t stop heats completely, but they may make them more bearable.” Lily said, chattering

nervously as Severus gave her an unreadable look, “I’ve only had one so far, but the next one’s coming soon and I’d like to be better prepared.”

“.....Prepared for what?” Severus asked, swallowing thickly.

“To ride it out, silly! This time will hopefully be better, but the first one was dreadful!” Lily said with a laugh at the serious expression on Severus’s face.

Nearly giddy from their kiss and Lily’s sweet scent as he held her in his arms, Severus struggled to compose himself. He wanted only to protect and provide.....and his gut clenched when his love mentioned even the slightest hint of her past discomfort.

“Is there anything I can do?” Severus asked Lily with a frown of genuine concern.

“.....A shirt or a necktie, please.” Lily reminded him, giggling at how their kiss had derailed his thoughts.

“Right, of course. Anything else?” Severus asked as he let go of Lily and stood when they heard someone approaching.

Lily waited until the passing group of Slytherin boys exited the staircase, eyeing her and Severus suspiciously, and entered their dormitory until she responded, “No, unless you want to be my alpha!”

Lily spoke with a laugh but she wasn’t joking. It was a sincere invitation.

An invitation to which Severus didn’t know how to properly respond.

“Give me a moment.” Severus said quickly, purposely ignoring Lily’s statement as he whirled around and raced up the steps to the boys’ dormitory.

Lily sat back down and frowned, wondering if she had said the wrong thing.

Severus had kissed her, surely he fancied her somewhat, right?

Perhaps he didn’t fancy her that much, though, choosing an alpha or an omega was a lifelong commitment and Severus was a very serious person.

Sighing to herself, Lily wondered if she had been too bold and offended her friend.

Severus could be a bit bristly at times.

Severus staggered up the steps to the boys’ dormitory and barely made it into the bathroom as he gasped for breath. Knowing that he was alone, he stepped into a stall. It only took a few quick motions of his hand before he found release, gritting his teeth as he spilled himself.

However, that was only a temporary solution.

While Severus cleaned himself and his hands in the bathroom, he found the urgency reduced but the intense, innate need still remained.

Lily.....

Lily.....

His dear Lily had just asked him to be her alpha, her mate.

Severus wasn't blind. He saw the smile and the laugh that she had used when she asked, but even though he lacked social skills, Severus was more than aware from the red headed omega's scent that her question was not a joke.

Lily had been serious.

Severus dried his hands off and exhaled, closing his eyes for a moment as he relived the kiss that they had shared only moments ago. Her delicious scent filling his nostrils while strands of her flame red hair fell over her shoulder, her breasts pushed against his chest.....

Clean and dry, Severus left the bathroom and placed a convincing scowl on his face as he returned to the dormitory and rummaged through his things to find an acceptable nightshirt to give to Lily. He only had two neckties, one he was wearing and one he had lost.

Severus Snape had few possessions.

The nightshirt would be better anyway.

Lily could even wear it if she wanted to.

As Severus gathered the clean garment into his hands and stuffed it into the deep pocket of his school robes, he found it hard to breathe.

Thinking that Lily wanted him badly enough to ask to borrow his clothing, thinking of Lily making her nest and wanting it to remind her of him, thinking of Lily rolling around in heat dreaming of him finding her and.....

Blood rushed to his groin so quickly it was almost painful.

As Severus swallowed to moisten his dry mouth, he compartmentalized his thoughts and tried to devise a plan.

Hmmm.

He still had an ample supply of luck potion.

Maybe that would help?

Or perhaps it would be too much of a hindrance?

Luck potion or not, Severus was determined that when Lily went into heat again, he was going to discover the redhead's nest and claim his beloved as his own.

Chapter 2 - Found

Thank you for reading! Please let me know if you enjoy! I don't own any of Harry Potter!

The final year at Hogwarts was a busy time for students but in the immediate weeks that followed Lily borrowing his shirt, Severus poured himself into his own research.

Severus had little knowledge of mating behavior outside of the basics, having resigned himself to the fact that he would probably never get to experience that life event. Raised in a home where abuse and melancholy ran rampant, even though Severus had been in love with Lily since they met in their early childhood, he had been certain that she would never return his feelings.

No one else stayed with him, so why should she?

He had hoped she had been serious when she asked him to be her alpha, but what kind of foolish thinking was that?

Of course she hadn't been serious.

But..... she had asked for a piece of his clothing to use in her nest.

His clothing.

From the books that Severus read on the topic, he confirmed that omegas usually only wanted their mate's scent in their nest.

Upon verifying that fact, Severus suddenly felt the need to clear his throat.

He and Lily were friends but they certainly were not....mated.

Not yet, anyway~.

Severus wasn't sure that he had ever been more flattered.

She had kissed him too.

Kissed him.

No, she hadn't been joking.

Lily didn't just want to be aroused by him, Lily wanted to be with him.

Severus read that heat cycle frequencies varied between omegas and that gave him hope.

It was still early in the school year, perhaps he could gather the courage to ask his beloved Lily on a date to Hogsmeade.

No more cleverly disguised flirtations, no more secret admirations.....

They could court through the remainder of the academic year.

Then after graduation, maybe Lily would.....welcome him?

Not as her friend, but as her mate?

Severus's love for Lily was genuine but he lacked social skills. Even though he was an alpha, Severus Snape was a shy and awkward young man.

Severus was irritated by how nervous he became whenever he thought about asking the redhead for a date while they sat together studying or walked to their classes side by side.

Spending time with Lily, loving Lily, that all seemed natural.

But to just ask her directly to be with him?

Severus was very uncomfortable with that idea.

While he was contemplating the best way to approach Lily for a date, though he didn't notice, she was waiting patiently for him to make exactly such a request.

Lily had been raised in a traditional household.

From childhood, her parents had taught her that an alpha should initiate a courtship, not an omega.

Lily tried to stay patient. She realized Severus had not grown up with a loving family like hers.

Lily did her best to encourage Severus. She spent time with him whenever possible, studying or chatting, finding his scent soothing and his company preferable.

Still though, as the semester droned on and no invitation to dinner or to share a butterbeer arrived from Severus, Lily began to feel disappointed.

It was a grand thing to them both when an autumn ball was announced by the headmaster.

The event was scheduled to occur the last Friday of September.

Severus saw the smug smirk on James Potter's face all the way across the Great Hall when everyone was given the news, but the worry that the other alpha elicited from Severus quickly dissipated.

Severus noticed that while he was busy staring at James, Lily was actually staring at him.

Severus's eyes softened as their gazes connected.

From her position over at the Gryffindor table, Lily flashed Severus a bright, beautiful smile.

Allowing himself to just as he had when he and Lily first met years ago, Severus smiled back.

After breakfast that morning, the students slowly trickled out of the Great Hall, starting their journey towards the first class of the day.

Severus and Lily walked out together, en route to herbology.

Lily was happy but Severus was reeling.

This was it.

“A ball! How exciting, Sev! We don’t get many parties like that!” Lily chirped as they walked down the stone corridor, “I bet they’ll allow everyone to dress up and-“

Severus knew he would never get a better chance.

“-Do you want to go?” Severus blurted out.

His question was so abrupt and spoken so demandingly that Lily blinked at him in surprise, “....Yes, Sev.....I want to go very much.”

Severus slowed his pace and pulled Lily over to the side of the hallway so they could escape the shuffle of other students, “No, Lily,” Severus said with a sigh, looking down into her large, green eyes, “I meant.....do you want to go to the ball.....with me?”

Lily answered very seriously as she stared up at Severus, “Yes, Sev. That’s what I thought you meant. I’d love to go to the ball....with you.”

Severus felt his heart flutter.

Outwardly, he harnessed his alpha pride and let it swell his chest. His facial expression remained calm though he really wanted to scream and jump in ecstasy.

“Alright.....but not as friends?” Severus clarified.

He had come so far, he needed to make sure that Lily understood the exact terms of what their attendance at this ball was going to mean.

“No, of course not.” Lily answered quickly, scowling as if she had taken offense that he would even suggest the opposite.

Severus thought he angered her at first and he went to speak, “Oh, I-“

“Uh....Unless that was what you wanted?” Lily said quickly, “Do you want to go as friends, Sev?”

“Absolutely not.” Severus firmly replied.

“Alright then.” Lily said with a smile, chuckling at the awkwardness of their exchange.

The corners of Severus’s mouth threatened to turn upwards into another smile as he watched amusement light up Lily’s fair face.

They paused for a moment and Lily tucked a stray strand of red hair behind her ear as the last stragglers of the morning crowd passed by in the hallway.

“Hey, Sev?” Lily asked.

“Yes?” Severus replied anxiously.

“I’m glad we’re not going as friends.” Lily replied with a bright smile.

“Me too.” Severus nodded.

Severus gave Lily a little nod when she still lingered.

His black eyes widened when she suddenly hopped up on her toes and pecked his lips with hers.

“Come on, Sev.” Lily called, shyly making her escape and walking down the hallway as if nothing had happened, “We’ll be late to class.”

Severus stood staring after her, his eyes wide in shock.

A profound sadness settled into his heart as he watched Lily walk away.

If only they could have shared another kiss as deep and as meaningful as the one they had on the stairs.

What did being a few minutes late matter?

Severus normally respected rules, but he was sure that he’d rather get detention than have to part from his private moment with Lily so prematurely.

James Potter was furious when he asked Lily to the ball later that day only for her to inform him that she already had a date.

When Severus overheard that conversation, as they all sat in potions class with Slughorn making his rounds, Severus had to put a hand over his cheek so that his mouth was covered to hide his sly smirk.

James glared at Lily angrily but she seemed not to notice or care as she focused on her work.

Though Severus felt victorious, he kept one eye on James.

On every alpha, really.

James was his biggest rival, of course, but Lily was a lovely girl. Intelligent, kind, beautiful, she was everything a desirable omega should be.

She was also unmated.

As thrilled as Severus was to have his darling accept his invitation to the ball, that didn't mean they belonged to each other.

As the greatly anticipated evening approached, excitement gripped the students of Hogwarts.

Severus used what little money he had managed to save over the summer to buy himself a decent pair of black dress robes.

Selling potions out of one's house didn't pay terribly well, but he had enough and that was what counted.

Lily had already purchased a dress for the occasion, but as the ball grew closer, she didn't feel well enough to think about it often.

Every day, Lily took her pill which didn't seem to help much. She was irritable and weepy for no reason in the week leading up to the event. Her stomach was unpredictable and her breasts became annoyingly tender.

No one else seemed to notice the changes in her as much as Severus, but no matter how discreet of a problem Lily had, he was usually the first to detect it.

Severus noticed that week that when he sat a little closer to the omega, she seemed to calm down a bit. When he spoke to her, her frustration seemed to ease, if only by a small amount.

And there was something about that week that made Severus jittery.

He was often anxious late at night, consumed by thoughts of Lily, wide awake as if he were waiting on something extraordinary to burst into the room.

Severus attributed it all to nerves. There was the stress of exams, the ball was coming, which would be his and Lily's first date.

Anxiety, that's all it was.

On the night of the ball, Severus stood at the bottom of Hogwarts' main staircase, tall, immaculately groomed, and rather handsome, proudly wearing his new robes and shiny, black shoes.

When the ball was about to begin and Lily hadn't appeared, Severus looked around apprehensively.

He remained loyally waiting for her, convinced that she must have taken an extra long time to get ready. As the music in the ballroom started and the waning trickle of Gryffindor girls emerging from the staircase slowed to a complete stop though, Severus frowned.

Had Lily changed her mind?

Terrified that she had chosen the arm of another, Severus momentarily left his post and slid over to peek into the ballroom.

Scanning the crowd from wall to wall, he held his breath in hope that he would not find Lily dancing with.....

No.

Severus blinked when he saw James Potter waltzing with a girl from Ravenclaw. He noticed his enemies' friends had dance partners of their own but none of them were with Lily.

Letting his calculating, black eyes dart around the room once more, Severus turned back towards the staircase when he was certain that Lily was not in the ballroom.

Instead of a blatant rejection, Severus found himself faced with a mystery.

What had happened to her?

.....Was she alright?

Severus noticed that the teachers and prefects were all focused on chaperoning the ball and while their attention was turned away, he crept stealthily into the Gryffindor common room, subduing the fat lady in the portrait with a clever spell he had devised.

Moving quickly, Severus hastily assessed the common room and upon finding it empty, he hurriedly dashed up the stairs towards the girls' dormitory.

Finding the seventh years' room, Severus scowled when he saw that empty as well, along with the girls' lavatory.

Where was Lily?!?!

As Severus made his way out of the Gryffindor area and slipped back down the stone stairs, he was so worried that he didn't even think about what would happen if he got caught snooping.

If he got caught, so what?

He knew his best friend, she would never just run off and disappear, especially not on the night of a ball.

Severus determined that clearly, Lily was in some sort of danger or trouble!

His mind raced.

Hmm.

It couldn't be James Potter's doing, if it was, he would have her with him.

So.....what then?

Who?

Where?

On a quest to rescue his beloved and discover the truth, while everyone's attention was still on the ball, Severus picked up a lantern and journeyed through the stone corridors, vowing to wander the castle until he found Lily, or at least a clue.

There had to be something, somewhere.

One hallway.

Empty classrooms.

Another hallway.

More empty classrooms.

As Severus walked yet another desolate part of the massive school, he sighed to himself in repressed exasperation.

If only he could-

Severus turned a corner and as soon as he did, he stopped abruptly, his shiny, black shoes gleaming in the soft glow of the lantern.

Severus felt his breath hitch.

His eyes widened and his pupils dilated.

The lantern in his hand clattered to the floor.

That scent.

That SCENT!

It was an aroma like no other.

A scent he had never, ever smelled before.

Sweeter than the finest sugar, more dizzying than the best musk, alluring in a way so primal that he immediately comprehended it without question.

It was the smell of an omega.

His omega.

That scent was Lily, amplified, calling out to him.

Severus felt his insides shaking but his limbs had never felt stronger as he took a confident step forward.

The wall in front of him was void besides a lonely picture frame, but he moved towards it anyway, following the direction of the scent.

When Severus reached the wall, he closed his eyes and inhaled deeply. Upon opening them, he found that a door had appeared in front of him.

Reaching a steady hand out, Severus turned the knob.

The door opened easily and Severus stepped into the Room of Requirement in awe as the scent grew even stronger.

Severus had seen the Room of Requirement change itself many times during his years at Hogwarts, but as he glanced around, dazed by that scent, he hazily noticed it had been converted into what looked like a cozy little flat.

At the back of the room, there was a living area, with a fireplace and a sofa.

Severus heard movement and his gaze shifted.

His mouth fell open.

His eyes glazed over.

There, on the floor, just in front of the fireplace, Lily was cuddled into a mound of pillows and blankets. As Severus took heavy steps towards her, he noticed that he was right, she was the source of that scent.

Beautiful, lovely little omega.

His Lily~.

His Lily was calling to him.....and she was cuddling with his nightshirt.

Lily looked up at Severus with a quiet groan. The flush on her cheeks along with her half-lidded green eyes made him want to growl as she reached a hand out towards him. The soft light of the fireplace licked along the pale flesh of her bare, slender legs as she all but begged, “.....Severus!”

Severus collapsed onto his knees and crawled forward, moving towards her in his heavy, black robes like a panther ready to pounce on its prey.

Take Lily.

Claim Lily.

Relieve her.

Free her.

Severus had no other choice.

His omega had left him no way out~.

Chapter 3 - Nesting

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Lily was gasping for breath as she lay looking up into Severus's onyx eyes. He hovered over her, the rational part of his mind apprehensive but his heart was certain. Slowly, he leaned down until the whispery strands of his soft, raven black hair brushed against Lily's sensitive skin.

Their eyes closed as their lips met, softly and sweetly.

When Severus inhaled, that intoxicating scent filled his brain, causing his arms to wrap around Lily as the tenderness in his kiss was overwhelmed by raw passion.

Lily whimpered against him while he licked at her lips. Understanding her alpha's silent question, Lily parted for Severus and allowed his tongue to explore her mouth.

Severus and Lily had no experience in such matters but that made little difference.

They didn't need experience, they just needed each other.

Severus and Lily.

It was instinctive, the way that Lily scratched at the numerous buttons on Severus's dress robes in a frenzied attempt to pry them off.

It was instinctive, the way neither of them worried about their bare forms, too fascinated by each other to be self-conscious.

It was instinctive, the way that Severus cradled Lily in his arms as he became one with the woman he loved so deeply, gritting his teeth at the pleasantly unpleasant way she dug her nails into the pale flesh of his back.

Even in his aggravated state of arousal, Severus remained sensitive to Lily's needs. Frowning when he heard her breath hitch at the unfamiliar sensation, he controlled the urge to move and he stilled himself, waiting for her body to adjust to his.

Lily's discomfort lasted for only a moment.

As she acclimated to her alpha, she exhaled in a quiet sigh.

It didn't hurt anymore....

It actually felt.....

When Severus heard a shrill, happy cry escape Lily's lips, his black eyes widened.

That was his signal.

Careful not to snarl so he wouldn't frighten his beautiful omega, Severus finally allowed himself to move. As they coupled, Severus tightened his grip on Lily and covered her throat in loving kisses.

Severus moved them both, trying adjustments to see what position would draw the loudest noise from Lily's throat.

Severus didn't allow himself to release until he was sure his omega was pleased.

When Lily did find her pleasure, Severus was captivated, from the sharp, desperate groan that left her plump, pink lips to the way her body shuddered involuntarily.

The sight and sound of his omega experiencing such bliss were enough to end him.

With a few more swift motions of his hips, Severus found his peak as well, revelling in the way that Lily pulled him down on top of her, begging him to claim her as his by blocking their inevitable parting.

The young lovers stayed together for some time after, not separating until their bodies slipped apart in an ungrateful motion.

Both alpha and omega lamented the loss of the other.

Feeling warm and comfortable by the fireplace, still inebriated from Lily's hypnotizing scent, Severus fluffed up the blankets and pillows around them and he lay down, allowing Lily to make herself comfortable against him.

Severus and Lily were officially a mated couple.

"I'm in love with you." Severus confessed to his darling omega.

They were lying together, naked, after just performing the most intimate act that took place between two human beings.

Severus could still smell Lily on himself.

What better time to finally reveal his true feelings?

Lily's eyes widened when she listened to his words.

Their lovemaking had been silent, an intense expression of devotion brought on by Lily's hormones but ultimately solidified by a mutual unspoken romantic connection.

It almost sounded strange to Lily, hearing Severus speak.

What an interruption to their primitive reverie!

".....Sev?" Lily managed to gasp.

“I’ve been in love with you since the day I met you.” Severus continued, carefully running his fingers through Lily’s long, red hair, “And that will never change.”

From her position on his shoulder, Lily breathed a sigh of happy relief and she looked up at Severus with a smile.

“.....I belong to you now?” Lily asked with a happy sigh.

“.....And I belong to you~.” Severus replied with a purr.

“Love you.” Lily murmured, as Severus bent down to place yet another sweet kiss on her lips.

“.....Love you.” Severus replied with a gentle purr.

It was finished.

It was done.

Severus and Lily were no longer only best friends.

He shivered as a chill from the large room hit him squarely in the back, causing him to look down at Lily as her sweet scent once again wafted through the air.

Though young and inexperienced, Severus already knew what that meant.

“Already?” Severus asked, staring at Lily hungrily as he shifted on their makeshift bed, ready to tend to his beloved’s needs.

“Need you....” Lily cried, moving onto her knees as a new wave of cramps gripped her belly, her womb angry at its emptiness.

Looking at Lily, crouching in front of him, with her flame red tresses falling over her breasts and shoulders, whimpering for him was almost too much for Severus.

As he swallowed thickly, Severus felt his tongue scrape the dry roof of his mouth as Lily positioned herself, ready for him once more.

Severus Snape’s new dress robes were shredded and discarded on the floor. His shiny, black shoes that he had used an entire summer’s worth of earnings to purchase were scratched and muffed from his haste.

Regardless, as he once again claimed Lily Evans as his mate, Severus Snape felt like he was the luckiest wizard in the world.

Severus and Lily, like the rest of Hogwarts students, had been given a brief course on sexual education and human reproduction I, a very brief course.

Neither of them had ever had relationships or anything similar before and so neither of them really understood what to expect.

As the ball ended and students were counted as they returned to their dormitories, it was quickly reported that two were missing.

One from Slytherin.

One from Gryffindor.

While Severus and Lily lay snuggled up together, outside of the Room of Requirement, Hogwarts was being turned upside down. Parties of prefects and teachers scoured the castle inch by inch. Hagrid, the school's gamekeeper, led a brave group of faculty members into the Forbidden Forest to expand the search.

As Lily's heat lingered over the next few days, she and Severus did not leave their comfortable little love nest.

Both Lily and Severus's families were contacted and informed that their children were missing and may very well be in grave danger.

The teachers and prefects blamed themselves for the disappearances, but safely cocooned together inside their temporary home, Severus and Lily knew nothing of the turmoil they had created.

They were too busy concerning themselves with each other.

Severus was young and he had excellent stamina, but he did not realize how demanding it was to care for an omega in heat.

Riddled by cramps and uncontrollable urges, with her skin burning and her senses hazy, Lily relied on her alpha.

Severus cooked for Lily, fed Lily, bathed Lily, and took her into his arms whenever she started to whimper in need.

It was exhausting, when she woke him several times during the night, pleading with him for just one more kiss, one more touch, but it was the most pleasant exhaustion that Severus had ever known.

Lily not only wanted him, no, Lily needed him!

Never before had Severus Snape been needed by anyone, but that had changed.

Severus had become Lily's lover, her protector, her provider, her alpha.

Hers~.

As the intensity of Lily's heat died down, they made love less and cuddled more.

When they went to sleep on the fourth night, Severus hoped that Lily would be able to make it until morning without waking.

While she rested, he kissed the top of her head gently.

If she did wake him in need, Severus, as tired as he was from the past few days, would do everything he could to please his mate.

Severus promised himself that he would be a loving and loyal mate to Lily.

Always~.

Neither Lily nor Severus desired to leave their temporary home. Equipped with a living area, a small bedroom, a kitchen, a table, and a lavatory, the Room of Requirement had become the ideal starter home for a young couple in love.

Resigning themselves to their unavoidable return to the world outside, Severus and Lily stepped out of their secret little apartment the first day that Lily's heat had completely ceased.

They no longer walked side-by-side.

Instead, they walked hand in hand.

Their stroll ended abruptly when they were met by several of Hogwarts faculty members and the Headmaster, who stared at them from the opposite end of the long hallway.

"Mister Snape, Miss Evans." Dumbledore greeted them both with a wave of his hand, "It's so good to see you two again. We were beginning to think that something terrible had happened. Although, if what I'm inferring is correct, it seems that the opposite of that assumption is true."

Lily blushed and Severus squeezed her hand in his, bolstering himself for what he knew was about to come.

Dumbledore spoke calmly, but the professors standing behind him looked enraged.

A week of searching and lamenting and answering difficult questions from parents and students.....only to find that the missing Slytherin and Gryffindor had been living together in the castle the entire time.

The professors were not pleased.

An hour later, Severus and Lily sat in the Headmaster's office, both of them anxiously awaiting their schoolmaster to come in and determine their fate.

Dumbledore finally shuffled into the room and sat down at his desk to gaze at the two students across from him.

“Please don’t expel us! Lily pleaded, “We didn’t mean to cause so much trouble!”

“Place the blame on me.” Severus said calmly, “It was all my fault, headmaster. She had no part in it.”

Lily narrowed her eyes and looked at Severus incredulously.

Ready to bear the full brunt of their doom himself, Severus glanced over at Lily.

Severus enjoyed school. He relished his studies, but if it meant that by giving up his own education, Lily could continue hers, then Severus would gladly do so.

“No one’s going to be expelled, at least, no today. Some things are natural and difficult to avoid.” Dumbledore replied, “Though I must say, Miss Evans, I am a bit disappointed in you. Madam Pomfrey informed me that she had given you some of her pills to take.”

“I have been taking them, sir.” Lily frowned.

Dumbledore seemed surprised, “Oh.....”

The headmaster blinked at the girl in front of him and he knew from the look in her eyes that she was being honest.

“Well then, anyway.....” Dumbledore continued, “No one’s getting expelled today, however, for the disturbance you two have created, both of you will spend the next month serving detention.”

Severus and Lily glanced over at each other before they thought.

Smiles started to curl at their lips....

“.....Separately.” Dumbledore finished.

Severus and Lily’s smiles faded into frowns.

“Your families would be contacted and made aware of exactly what’s happened, though since you are both of legal age, the only thing that Hogwarts is allowed to say is that you’ve returned to our care safely.” Dumbledore went on.

Lily and Severus both breathed a sigh of relief.

Good!

They could marry right after graduation before their parents learned the true extent of their shameful escapades.

“I do request that neither of you mention any details to the other students.” Dumbledore added, “I don’t want anyone to be encouraged by this situation, so let’s keep this matter private, shall we?”

“Yes, sir.” Severus nodded.

“Yes, sir.” Lily echoed.

“Good.” Dumbledore replied, “Go on, then. The appropriate professors will contact you soon with details about your detention.”

“Thank you, sir.” Lily said as she stood from her chair.

“Thank you, sir.” Severus replied, standing as well.

Dumbledore watched as Severus and Lily exited his office. He saw the gentle way that Severus placed his hand protectively on his omega’s back to guide her and he smiled to himself.

Severus and Lily walked down the stone corridor together, hand in hand, unaware of the struggles they would face in the academic year that lay ahead of them.

Madam Pomfrey’s pills had failed to prevent Lily’s heat.

What else had Madam Pomfrey’s pills failed to do?

Chapter 4 - The Slytherin and the Gryffindor

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No explanation was offered to Hogwarts' students when Lily and Severus returned to class the following day as if nothing out of the ordinary had happened. Both were questioned repeatedly by their peers, but both upheld their secret promise to Dumbledore.

Lily kept insisting that she didn't want to talk about it, but that everything was fine.

Severus shrugged the inquisitions away.

No one had any idea exactly how far their relationship had progressed, but it did become unmistakably obvious to others that Lily and Severus at least fancied each other.

Their behavior with one another was very different after their questionable absences.

Severus and Lily held hands on their way to their classes, they spent their free time whispering sweet words to each other under the pretense of exchanging study notes, and they even gave each other gentle kisses when the teachers had their backs turned.

They saved their more heated kisses for those delightful times when they found a solitary corner among the stone hallways which afforded the young couple a moment of privacy.....

Severus and Lily even started eating their meals as quickly as possible so they could leave the Great Hall and their assigned tables in favor of sitting on the stone in the courtyard together.

Lily was assigned detention with Professor Flitwick, who mostly requested that she help him grade assignments and students' essays, which was an easy task for Lily.

Severus was assigned detention with Professor Slughorn, for which he was very glad. It was no secret that Severus Snape was in the Slug Club and clearly favored by the potions professor for his academic talent.

While their detention sentences were not particularly cruel or grueling, they were punishing because of the way that they kept the alpha and omega apart. Besides remaining best friends, as a mated couple, all Severus and Lily wanted to do was spend time together.

But by the end of their month-long detention sentence, all Lily wanted to do was vomit.

Severus had become concerned when her debilitating symptoms started abruptly one evening after dinner.

Lovingly, he had held her hair while she retched in the grass outside, unable to make it back to the lavatory.

That night, once her stomach finally settled, Lily had insisted that she felt much better, but to Severus's dismay, the following evening, the same thing happened.

And the evening after that.....

And the evening after that.....

As time passed, Lily never really felt well at all throughout the day, but Severus noticed that the first of the morning and the last of the evening seemed to result in his lover's most violent episodes.

Simply smelling the sausage in the Great Hall during breakfast could send Lily flying up from her seat and racing out the door with her hand over her mouth.

A virus, perhaps.

A bacterial upset in her digestive tract.

Severus and Lily both made excuses for the first few days of her illness. However, when a week passed and nothing had changed, Severus held her close one night while they cuddled in a secluded area of the owlery, just before curfew began.

Severus nuzzled into Lily's neck and took a deep breath, inhaling the scent of her soft, red hair.

Lily laughed while he did. She couldn't see it, but his onyx eyes widened when he noticed how much sweeter his lover's smell had become.

Unbelievably sweet, almost to the point of.....spiciness?

Severus pulled away suddenly and he looked down at Lily as a despairing frown twisted his lips.

"What's the matter, Sev?" Lily asked with a bright smile, though her face was gaunt with the exhaustion of her illness.

"You're with child." Severus spoke.

It wasn't a question or a fear, it was a confident, resigned statement.

Lily blinked at her alpha.

With a nervous laugh, she replied, "Don't be ridiculous, Sev. What's wrong with you? I'm on Madam Pomfrey's pills, I can't--"

"You're with child." Severus repeated assuredly.

The deadly seriousness in his voice was unnerving to Lily.

“N-No, I’m not.” Lily replied, narrowing her eyes at her alpha.

“Alright.....then let’s go to the infirmary and confirm that.” Severus challenged.

Lily drew in a shuddering breath.

The unwavering stare that Severus was giving her made her believe his conviction.

“W-Why do you think that?” Lily asked.

“I know it.” Severus replied, “You’ve been ill.....it’s been over a month since our.....coupling. And your scent, it’s.....it’s different, Lily.”

“I don’t think so.” Lily replied stubbornly.

“Of course you don’t.” Severus answered, “I’m your alpha, Lily. I know when something’s changed about my mate.”

Whether it was from whatever was causing her symptoms or just the sudden amount of stress, Severus watched as Lily’s pale cheeks turned a green hue and she held a shaky hand up to her mouth.

“I.....I think I’m going to be sick again....” Lily stammered.

Severus wasted no time. He assumed his usual position, standing behind Lily while she emptied her stomach off the far side of the owlery.

But as soon as she was finished, Severus took Lily by her hand and apparated them both straight to the infirmary.

“Miss Evans! Mister Snape!” Madam Pomfrey called when she saw them appear without warning.

It was fortunately a slow night in Hogwarts’ infirmary. Glancing around quickly, Severus saw that he and Lily were practically the only ones in the school’s medical wing.

“What’s wrong? Is one of you ill?” Madam Pomfrey asked worriedly. Her shrewd eyes darted back and forth between them both but her gaze lingered on Lily, who still looked unnaturally pallid.

“Please, Madam Pomfrey.....” Severus asked politely, keeping his hand on Lily’s back to steady her, “We need your help.”

Madam Pomfrey frowned at the couple but led them over to a vacant section of the largely deserted infirmary. She gestured to the empty bed and Severus gently helped Lily lie down on the soft mattress.

“What seems to be the trouble?” Madam Pomfrey asked, her eyes flickering between Severus and Lily suspiciously, “Miss Evans, you don’t look well. Are you having any pain?”

“No, just nausea.” Lily replied weakly.

Severus stepped back as Madam Pomfrey began her examination of Lily.

When the matronly healer discovered what the true cause of Lily’s symptoms were, her eyes widened and she took her patient behind a curtain to discuss her findings.

Severus heard a wailing cry come from Lily and a moment later, Madam Pomfrey emerged from the curtain, glaring at Severus.

“Miss Evans has informed me that you already know the cause of her.....ailment.” Madam Pomfrey scowled at Severus, her eyes full of deadly accusation.

“She’s with child?” Severus asked in a whisper, careful to keep his voice down so the few others in the room wouldn’t overhear.

Severus knew it, he just needed his claim validated.

“She is.” Madam Pomfrey confirmed, “What are you going to do, Mr. Snape? I’m not certain how the headmaster will react to this, in fact, I’m not certain that Hogwarts has ever run into this situation before!”

“She said she took your pills.” Severus replied, his voice far away as if his mind was somewhere else and he were answering autonomously.

“Yes, that’s what Miss Evans told me as well.” Madam Pomfrey sniffed, “But don’t place the blame on me! Those pills are designed to help reduce heats and fertility, but they don’t have the same efficacy on every omega.”

“.....Lily went through a heat.” Severus frowned.

“And you found her.” Madam Pomfrey judgmentally responded, “There you have it, Mr. Snape, if my pills failed to prevent her heat, it only stands to reason that they failed to halt her fertility as well.”

Behind Madam Pomfrey, Lily peeked over at Severus from behind the curtain. His gaze was drawn away to meet his omega’s and his heart wrenched in his chest at the frightened tears that ran down her face.

“I’ll ask again, Mr. Snape, what will you do?” Madam Pomfrey pressed.

Severus thought that was an ignorant question for such a skilled healer to ask.

What would he do?

What would he do?

He would take care of Lily, of course.

He would protect and provide for his mate and their child.

Wasn't that obvious?

Fortunately, Severus and Lily were both gifted, acclaimed students. That helped them persuade Dumbledore to allow Lily to finish her magical education.

The kind headmaster agreed to let Lily graduate, though he did add the stipulation that she would need to travel to and from class every day.

Dumbledore felt that it was not a good influence to have a mated, pregnant omega around a large group of her curious, hormonal, unmated peers.

Dumbledore was afraid other girls may get similar ideas with their own suitors.....

When Lily was asked to move out of Hogwarts, Severus politely excused himself from Slytherin's dorm.

Neither Severus nor Lily's parents were particularly pleased with their situation at such a young age, but the two were legal adults and that, combined with Lily's condition, left the Snapes and the Evans little room to interfere in their children's lives.

Lily's father and Severus's mother gave the couple enough money to establish them in a very small, very quaint apartment in Hogsmeade.

Lily and Severus were quickly and quietly married in both the wizarding and the muggle world, resulting from a combination of their own mutual desire and their parents' demands.

Severus was more than happy to wed his beloved and Lily felt the same.

Regardless of their parents' anger, the couple would have married soon anyway.

The paper was nice to have, but the two were already committed to each other in body, mind, and heart.

On the weekends and after class, Severus and Lily busied themselves over the next month with setting up their little apartment.

Funds were meager and furnishings were sparse at best, but Severus and Lily were thrilled.

They were together, they were young, and soon they'd be Hogwarts graduates.

Soon after that, they'd be a family~.

Chapter 5 - Young Lovers

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The next months were some of the most wondrous yet difficult of Severus and Lily's young lives.

Living by themselves, the young newlyweds discovered just how much effort went into establishing and upkeeping a household.

Using magic was a great help, but there was still laundry to wash, bills to pay, and something always seemed to need a good cleaning.

On top of all that, Severus was often left to complete those tasks alone. Lily's nausea eventually eased, but when her stomach settled, the deep exhaustion that only pregnant omegas experienced attacked.

The redhead stayed so tired that it was all she could do to keep up with her studies, let alone try and tend the many frequent chores of domestic life.

School was another factor entirely.

As Lily's belly started to swell and Severus became more and more protective of his expectant bride, it didn't take terribly long for their fellow students to figure out the truth of their circumstances.

To the couple's dismay, Lily's pregnancy was not viewed favorably at all by their peers.

Lily's friends criticized her for her choice of an alpha.

The other girls in her year mercilessly berated her for allowing herself to get pregnant so young.

Severus's Slytherin friends were disappointed that he had chosen a muggle born as his omega and that he had even gone so far as to marry her. Severus didn't really care what they thought, he was too elated to be with Lily to mind the opinions of others.

Lily had always been Severus's ultimate goal and having attained that, he was genuinely pleased.

The negative reaction from Hogwarts' students was much harder on Lily than Severus.

Before they had mated, Lily enjoyed being popular, but Severus was her support system through the social backlash.

During their breaks between classes, away from everyone else, Severus would sit under a tree in the shady courtyard and help Lily ease herself down so she could lay against his chest.

Sometimes, after lunch, Lily would use Severus as a pillow and close her eyes to take a short nap.

Ignoring the disapproving states and jeers from the students on the other side of the courtyard, Severus kept his attention focused on his beautiful wife.

It became a habit for him to keep one hand on Lily's belly while she slept. Severus knew that the action was subtle, but it filled him with pride.

Severus had already decided, protecting his darling Lily and their son or daughter, that was the purpose to which he would dedicate his life.

Let the others stare.

Let the others mock.

What did Severus care about them?

For the first time in his life, he was finally happy.

It was a strange feeling.

Severus Snape wasn't used to being.....happy.

Neither Severus nor Lily had anticipated that as she became more fragile, Severus seemed to grow more robust.

The petty teenage squabbles of his classmates seemed menial and dismissible to him, a married alpha now on the brink of fatherhood.

Severus no longer walked with his head down, shyly trying to avoid eye contact with anyone except Lily.

He remained eloquently respectful to his professors but he was no longer as meek or as timid.

Severus had to find his voice.

He was the head of a household now.

He couldn't trudge around like a frightened child anymore!

His newfound confidence was born from a desire to fight for his little family.

And fight, Severus did.

However he learned that a fight wasn't always necessary.

On a break between classes one day, Severus was in the lavatory washing his hands when James Potter and his friends strolled in the room.

“Well, if it isn’t Snivelly himself.” James said with a nasty smirk.

“Hello, Potter.” Severus replied, his low voice calm and tranquil.

Severus turned off the water and dried his hands, regarding James and the marauders who stood behind him as if he were bored by their presence.

Before he had claimed Lily as his omega, Severus would have been intimidated at least, if not frightened, to be cornered by his enemies.

But now?

What were James and the marauders going to do?

.....Hurt him?

Of course not.

Severus wouldn’t allow it.

James thought of himself as a great wizard but Severus had invented his own spells and curses.

Severus no longer had the luxury of letting James abuse him.

Lily depended on him now, he had to stay in good condition for her.

To Severus’s surprise, when James saw that he failed to strike fear in Severus’s heart, his enemy’s smirk fell away in disappointment.

Instead of beginning a battle, James diverged from the tension that filled the room and asked curiously, “.....How’s Lily?”

“Perfectly fine under my care.” Severus replied arrogantly, “It is my duty to see to her health and well-being, Potter. I am her mate.”

That was the greatest weapon that Severus Snape could ever wield against James Potter.

James had no equal counter.

Lily had chosen Severus instead. The beautiful, red-headed omega was walking through the halls that very moment carrying Severus’s child, wearing the golden ring that visually represented their marriage.

The same golden ring that Severus had placed on her finger during their discreet wedding ceremony.....

How could James possibly refute that?

Severus smirked when he saw James grit his teeth in irritated frustration.

Adding in an unamused tone, Severus nodded at his group of enemies, "If you'll excuse me.....I'm going to be late for class."

"You don't deserve her!" James thundered after Severus had put his back to them and walked towards the door.

Severus stopped in his tracks but he didn't turn his head as he responded to James, "That's where we are evenly matched, Potter.....Neither do you."

Severus walked out of the lavatory unable to remove the victorious smirk that glued itself onto his lips.

After his departure, James was left with only a frown.

Who deserved Lily, and who didn't, that was anyone's speculation.

The fact was that the desirable Gryffindor omega had made her choice.

.....And she hadn't chosen James.

"Let me help you, my love." Severus offered chivalrously while Lily struggled out of her robes once they arrived back home later that day.

"I can do it, Sev." Lily said quietly even though she failed to protest against her alpha's thoughtful assistance.

Lily felt very fortunate to have such a loving husband.

Severus carried all of Lily's books for her. He was considerate enough to stand outside in the hall waiting for her class to be dismissed during those few times a day when they had alternating subjects.

Severus helped Lily in and out of her seat since her belly was getting round enough to impair her movement. He even walked her over to the Gryffindor table in the Great Hall at every meal to

aid her. She marveled at the way her alpha was promptly by her side once she finished eating, as if he had been watching her from across the room.

Truthfully, Severus did watch Lily, almost constantly.

His eyes rarely left his mate.

Besides marveling at her beauty, which he had done since they met, Severus was both awed and terrified by his mate's condition.

As Lily's pregnancy progressed, Severus fawned over how full of life his bride looked.

How simply and completely flawless his flower had become!

Although in truth, the thought of fatherhood terrified him.

He, Severus, was going to be someone's.....father?

He was plagued by self-doubt.

From Lily's sweet kindness and her apparent tranquility about their precarious situation, Severus felt that motherhood would come easily to her.

But what was he supposed to do?

Severus was awkward and he could be abrasive at times. Having grown up isolated in a home with an abusive father and a melancholy mother, Severus had few positive role models in his life.

He was hoping that when his child arrived, his instincts would be as helpful as they had been when he found Lily in her nest.

Surely when he looked at his son or daughter for the first time, he would know what to do and how to feel?

Surely.....Right?

Severus's thoughts were called away as Lily blew out a breath and walked into their small bedroom. She was eager to change out of her uniform and into something more comfortable. The Headmaster and staff had insisted she keep her robes on all day to cover the evidence of her pregnancy as much as possible, but she still had to wear her uniform underneath.

Her skirt was held together with a mending spell that allowed it to expand over her widening hips and she had bought a shirt and vest two sizes larger than she wore, which barely fit her new curves.

Severus glided along behind Lily.

He took pleasure in the relief on her face when he started to help his mate out of her restrictive clothing.

"Thanks, Sev." Lily said with a smile once she was standing in only her undergarments. Lily delighted in the sensation of finally being out of the strict confines of her ill-fitting school uniform.

As she took her clothes from her husband's hands and went to the closet in search of the laundry hamper, Severus resisted the urge to stare at her full breasts. Swallowing thickly, he cleared his throat and began to change out of his uniform as well, choosing to wear simpler clothing when he and Lily were at home together.

When Lily stepped back into the room, Severus was standing in his black trousers, bare from the waist up.

It made him smirk when he felt Lily's gaze ghost over his bare chest and arms.

Severus was careful to stretch slightly so that Lily could watch his smooth, slender muscles ripple under his skin. Carrying cauldrons and books came with its own set of benefits.

"Is something wrong, Lily?" Severus asked Lily innocently.

"No." Lily replied, still staring at her husband, "Everything's fine, Sev."

"It's impolite to stare." Severus replied.

"Oh! I'm sorry, I didn't mean to-" Lily said hurriedly but Severus interrupted her.

"-Though I had the urge to do the same to you~." Severus murmured.

A soft smile came across Lily's face.

"You.....don't think I'm ugly?" Lily asked hopefully.

"Of course I don't think that." Severus said, narrowing his eyes at Lily, "I can barely keep my eyes off you. I don't think I've ever seen you look so....."

"Fat?" Lily laughed.

"Delicious~." Severus answered in his low, deep voice.

Lily's cheeks burned apple red with a deep blush.

"I like it when you stare at me, Sev." Lily admitted, walking over to their bed and lowering herself down.

"Oh?" Severus asked with a purr.

Lily laid back on the pillows with a deep sigh. The noise beckoned Severus to walk towards her before he could stop himself.

Lily welcomed him with open arms as he carefully crawled over her and gazed down at the woman who held his heart in her hands.

Lily looked up at Severus and revelled in the sheer admiration that emanated from his dark gaze. Lovingly, she reached a hand up and gently stroked his wispy strands of soft, black hair that dangled down towards her.

"I hope you always look at me like that." Lily said quietly.

"Always~." Severus rumbled.

It was a genuine, honest answer.

It was beautiful and it was as true as the love that Severus and Lily made after he bent down and stole a fiery kiss from her lips.

Severus didn't coerce Lily or try to pressure her, but he was pleasantly surprised to find that his pregnant wife wanted him as much as he wanted her.

As they napped together afterwards, Severus dozed with his hand on Lily's firm belly.

His face was relaxed and his mind was free from worry.

There was still the challenge of the birth, but Severus wasn't as worried about parenthood as he had been, not anymore.

Lily.....

As long as Severus had Lily at his side to show him the way, that was all that he needed.

Chapter 6 - A Very Different Exam

Thank you for reading! I don't own any of Harry Potter! Please let me know if you enjoy!
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By the final month of the school year, Lily was miserable. She dragged herself to and from class every day out of sheer determination to graduate from Hogwarts with Severus.

Her feet were swollen, her body hurt, she tired as soon as she stood from bed, and her belly had grown much bigger than she and Severus had anticipated.

Severus's brow was constantly creased with worry as he hovered over his suffering wife day and night. The young alpha barely even noticed the other students anymore. Lily was his world more completely than ever. It pained him greatly that his mate was so uncomfortable and yet there was so very little that he could do to ease her burden.

As each day brought them closer to the arrival of their little one, Severus's anxiety grew and fear clouded his thoughts.

What if something went wrong and he lost his lover?

Or their child?

What if his new son or daughter didn't like him?

What if he turned out to be as ill-tempered and vile as his own father?

Whenever Lily saw Severus brooding, she would smile and take his hand in hers reassuringly, but Severus never managed to smile back.

Lily's scent grew sweeter and sweeter with each passing day. Of course they had diligently kept up with her midwife appointments. Severus would settle for no less than Lily having proper prenatal care, but even that didn't calm Severus's nerves.

If not from her scent, Severus could sense it from the life within his mate.

It wouldn't be long before their baby joined them.

Severus breathed a sigh of relief when exams week arrived and Lily was still trudging along but doing well over all.

After exams were finished, the semester would wrap up with some secondary lessons, and then the Snapes could graduate and move on with their lives.

That week was stressful for both Severus and Lily, but it passed by quickly. Before either of them noticed, it was Friday.

Severus blinked his eyes open first that morning.

One last day of tests and stress and then he and Lily could spend the weekend cuddling and relaxing together.

It had become a routine. Every morning when he woke, Severus laid his thin, elegant hands over his omega's swollen womb to make sure she and the baby were doing alright.

The final day of exams was no exception.

A tense, subtle smile pulled at Severus's lips as he placed his hands on Lily and felt movement gently rippling under his palms.

Two more weeks and they would graduate.

Four more weeks and their baby was due to arrive.

Their baby was due to arrive.

Severus frowned in worry and wonder as he watched Lily continue to peacefully doze beside him.

Careful not to wake her prematurely, Severus propped himself up on one elbow and gently ran his long fingers through the red strands of Lily's hair that hung around her face.

Severus black eyes softened as he watched his beloved sleep.

Their situation was desperate and shamed by many, but Severus was overjoyed. Regardless of how real it had become, he could still scarcely believe that Lily was his mate and that he was going to be a father.

Lily groaned softly in her sleep and Severus bent forward to kiss her forehead just before she cracked her green eyes open.

"Good morning, my love~." Severus said in a gentle purr. He instinctively scooted closer to Lily as she shivered in the morning chill and reached up to pull him in for a hug.

"Good morning, Sev." Lily whispered quietly.

"Are you alright?" Severus blinked as Lily let go and lay back against the pillows.

Lily nodded as she reached up and rubbed her eyes with the back of her hand.

"I'm ready for this to be over." Lily yawned.

"Today's the last day, my love. When we leave the castle today, our exams will be finished." Severus nodded.

“I wasn’t talking about our exams.” Lily huffed as she laid a hand on the mound of covers under which her belly was nestled.

Severus followed the motion and his suspicion was instantly aroused, “.....Are you not feeling well?”

“I’m feeling as well as I’m going to feel, Sev.” Lily laughed at the concerned look on his face as she tried to stretch, “I’m ready to meet our baby, that’s all.”

Severus was still visibly leary as Lily pushed herself up to kiss him deeply before she pulled him back under the covers so they could snuggle for a moment more before they had to get up and start their day.

Lily reminded herself to have patience with Severus. Though many viewed him as odd and abrasive, to her at least, he was caring and loving.

Besides, Severus had never been pregnant before, he didn’t understand what it was like.

He didn’t understand the hormones or the exhaustion, or the irritating, nagging ache that Lily had felt in her back since the previous night.....

Severus pulled back from their kiss so he could gaze down at Lily. His black eyes were soft but intense, like molten ore, as he looked over his wife with silent reverence.

Lily smiled softly under his scrutiny, not bothering to try to hide from him as his eyes roved over swollen breasts and her firm, round belly.

“What’s the matter, Sev?” Lily asked with a wry smile as she studied the serious look on her husband’s face.

“You’re beautiful.” Severus said softly as he bent his head and kissed Lily softly once more.

Lily giggled and shook her head in disagreement, but she squealed when Severus lifted her up into his arms and stood as he carried her out of bed and towards their closet while he spoke, “Unfortunately, your beauty won’t delay the start time of our assessments. We need to get dressed, my love.”

Lily was about to reply as Severus sat her down gently on her feet, but that irritating pain strengthens and cut her off.

The dull ache in her back turned into a dull throb and Lily frowned as she placed a hand worriedly on her side.

“What’s the matter?” Severus asked quickly, scanning Lily’s face for any kind of warning clue or indication.

“Nothing, Sev.” Lily said dismissively as she let her hand fall away once the pain gradually eased.

Lily proceeded to ready herself for the day as if nothing were wrong, but Severus kept eyeing her closely.

As he thought about it, he actually noticed that his mate smelled even more sweetly that morning than she had over the duration of her pregnancy.

By remembering what he had read about omegas and hormones, the change in Lily's scent concerned Severus almost as much as her pain.

After they were both ready, Severus and Lily left their apartment and headed to Hogwarts.

Severus was careful to stay by her side and keep one hand cautiously on her back for support while they walked along. Some omegas would have been irritated by his hovering, but Lily just held Severus's free hand in her own and beamed at people who passed by them. She was happy that she had such an adoring mate.

They were halfway up the hill that led out of Hogsmeade and up to the castle when Lily stopped suddenly and Severus abruptly halted with her.

"What's wrong?" Severus asked quickly, narrowing his eyes as Lily stretched under his hand and put a palm back on the side of her belly.

".....Nothing." Lily reassured him as she let out a breath, "My back hurts, Sev, that's all."

Severus's black eyes widened, "Do..... Do you think we should get you to the midwife?"

"No!" Lily laughed, waving her alpha's concern away even while she felt the throbbing pain in her back grow stronger, "My back hurts all the time now, Sev. I'm fine, really. Come on, we're nearly there."

Severus frowned and Lily watched as he stayed even closer to her while they resumed and completed their walk up to the castle.

Lily's scent had become so sweet that Severus felt like he was leading a cake instead of his omega into the foyer as he and Lily entered the castle.

They had already missed breakfast but neither had much of an appetite.

Severus was anxious about their exams but his concern about his wife was really what had decreased his hunger.

The tests weren't really on Lily's mind at that point. It was that dull nauseating ache in her spine that had decimated her desire for food.

Severus and Lily arrived at Professor Slughorn's potions classroom in the dungeon two minutes before their first exam was scheduled to start.

Both Severus and Lily were in the Slug Club and that, along with their situation, earned them their teacher's mercy.

Instead of chastising the couple for near tardiness, Professor Slughorn only nodded to them as they stepped through the door and Severus assisted Lily as she sat down on the bench.

The classroom had already fallen silent in preparation for the exam and as Professor Slughorn began to pass out the parchments, Lily shifted uncomfortably on the hard, wooden seat underneath her as that deep, throbbing pain in her back started again.

Severus noticed her squirming and he reached out to grab her hand.

Lily gasped for breath as her pain crescendoed and Severus watched in horror as she curled forward around her belly instinctively.

"Severus.....!" Lily whispered in a harsh gasp as she swallowed hard and leaned forward.

"I'm right here, Lily. I'm right here." Severus murmured as he frowned at the strength that Lily had found to squeeze his hand.

Most of the other students were staring at Lily and Severus by the time Professor Slughorn walked over to their table. The experienced potions instructor took one look at Lily's pale face, as she grit her teeth and shut her eyes tightly. Professor Slughorn gasped at the puddle of liquid that he stepped in which had pooled underneath his heavily pregnant student.

Severus clenched his own jaw as Professor Slughorn promptly ordered him, "Severus, I think you need to escort Mrs. Snape to the infirmary! Right away! Go on! Hurry!"

Lily barely heard her professor's words.

Lily didn't see the fear in Severus's eyes.

All Lily knew was that the baby was coming and the baby was coming now.

Chapter 7 - A Very Different Exam Pt II

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Lily whimpered from the pain in her belly, flustered and frightened, as Severus leapt from his seat and hovered over her.

By that point, the suffering omega had attracted the entire class's attention. Everyone that was present watched in a stunned state of shock while Severus attempted to help Lily stand as he draped one of her arms around his shoulders.

The contraction hadn't ended yet and when Severus attempted to lift Lily up, she cried out in agonized protest.

Severus didn't know for certain what the effects would be of using Levicorpus on a laboring woman and he wasn't eager to run such an experiment on his own wife and child.

An anguished voice called out suddenly from the Gryffindor table, "Is that the best you can do, Snivelly?!"

Severus gnashed his teeth and turned his head in the direction of the sound.

Was that James or Sirius?

It had to be one of his tormentors, only his cruel bullies would mock him at such a precarious moment.

To Severus's surprise, though, when he looked over, he saw that James's seat at the Gryffindor table was empty.

Severus's mouth fell open when he turned back around and saw James standing on the other side of Lily as she gasped for breath and held her belly.

"Come on, then!" James snapped at Severus, "Let's get her to Madam Pomfrey!"

James reached out to help the omega, but Severus snarled defiantly, "Don't you dare touch her!"

He could feel his nervousness ebbing away as Lily's scent became sweeter and sweeter.

The fear of the grim dangers that childbirth brought was being overpowered by Severus's alpha instinct to provide for and protect his mate.

James took a step back when Severus shouted at him, but he raised his hand in defense as he reasoned with his nemesis, "You can't drag her all the way up there by yourself, now can you? Without hurting her? Do you really think she's in any condition to walk?"

As the pain finally ended for the moment, Lily swallowed hard. Lily glanced at her alpha and caught his gaze for a moment, it bothered Severus how her beautiful face looked pale and frightened.

Severus narrowed his eyes in concern at Lily.

Potter, as much as Severus hated to admit it, was right.

Severus couldn't carry his omega to the infirmary by himself without risking her and their baby's safety. He wanted to protect and provide, of course, but he had to put aside what he wanted.

Severus had to think about what Lily needed and at that moment, Lily needed a safe, comfortable place to give birth in and a qualified professional to help guide their child from her womb.

Slughorn was well aware that James and Severus were bitter enemies but seeking to remedy the situation quickly so he could get on with his class and Lily could get on with the work that lay ahead of her, Slughorn cleared his throat and spoke, "Surely you two gentleman can put aside your differences for a short while, can you not?"

James and Severus stared each other down for several seconds until Lily cried out again and broke the silence as a new pain began in the bottom of her rounded abdomen.

Neither Severus nor James remembered diving forward and cradling the suffering omega between them as they hurriedly hoisted her through the halls up to the infirmary tower, but both of them remembered the cries of pain that echoed through her throat from the center of her being.

James got little reward for his kindhearted and difficult task.

As soon as he and Severus arrived at the infirmary with Lily, who was sweating and gasping for breath with one hand on her side, James was practically ejected from the tower by Madam Pomfrey.

Hogwarts' healer was a stern woman on a regular day, but she made no effort to hide her irritation that the castle's only pregnant student had chosen to welcome her little one during the school day.

Madam Pomfrey mumbled words of frustration to herself as she flicked her wand this way and that to assemble supplies. She was courteous enough to draw curtains around Severus and Lily to give the couple the highest level of privacy possible.

There was only one other student in the tower while Lily laid on the bed and clutched Severus's hand.

The second year Ravenclaw was bewildered by the scene in front of him and since he had received treatment for the small burn on his arm he had acquired during that day's charms

lesson, while Madam Pomfrey went to tend Lily, he politely and silently saw himself out.

Lily's loud wail of agony echoed off of the stone halls as the horrified, young boy scrambled away down the stone steps.

"You're doing well." Severus reassured his wife as he sat beside her, letting her squeeze his hand, "You're doing so well, my love."

Madam Pomfrey tried not to roll her eyes as Severus raised Lily's hand to his lips and kissed the back of her damp knuckles while the healer examined his beloved Gryffindor using a simple spell instead of her hand.

"You're doing too well, Mrs. Snape." Madam Pomfrey declared, "You've scarcely given me enough time to grab some towels! When you feel pressure, go ahead and bear down....Really! What were you thinking, coming into class like this? You should have asked your alpha to take you to St. Mungo's!"

A hoarse groan from Lily ended Madam Pomfrey's berating speech. Severus's heart pounded in his chest as he watched his wife instinctively spread her legs wide and struggle to sit up.

Severus gently put his arms around Lily and helped her move into a more comfortable position just in time for her to curl forward around her swollen belly and tuck her chin to her chest.

The guttural, animalistic shriek that left Lily's lips brought tears to Severus's eyes. He said nothing because he knew it would be a futile attempt to whisper words of comfort.

It would be impossible for Lily to hear him over herself.

Instead of trying to tell her sweet nothings, Severus found another way to support his darling.

Severus moved deftly and wedged himself behind her on the bed as best he could. Instead of letting her fight to stay upright, he let Lily brace herself against the firmness of his chest while she strained to give birth to their son or daughter.

"SSSEEEVVV!" Lily wailed desperately as Severus watched Madam Pomfrey pick up one of the clean towels that sat on a nearby table and move between his wife's legs.

"Full head of black hair...." Madam Pomfrey commented as Lily fell back against Severus with her chest heaving.

Black hair.....

The young father's heart fluttered as he realized it was his baby that Madam Pomfrey was talking about.

"SSEEEVVV!" Lily begged him as she squeezed his hand tightly in her own and bore down once more.

"I'm right behind you." Severus reminded his mate urgently in his low purr of a voice.

Perhaps Lily may be able to hear him after all, but if she couldn't, he decided that he was going to tell her anyway.

In all of that pain and all of that fear, Lily was reaching out to him for comfort, even if she was deaf to his words, maybe she could hear them with her heart.

Lily's throat gave out and her next scream ended in a silent, choking sob as she collapsed limply backwards against Severus once more.

Severus bent his head and kissed her sweat-slicked cheek but his eyes were focused on Madam Pomfrey.

Madam Pomfrey's attention was no longer directed straight at Lily's core.

No....

Severus watched Hogwarts' healer frown down at something on the bed underneath Lily as the older woman's hands moved this way and that.

As tired as Lily was, Severus had never seen such a spark of joy in his darling flower's green eyes as he did when they both heard a very sharp and very new little cry issue from the end of the bed.

Severus's black eyes were wide as he looked down at Lily, but she smiled up at her husband and laughed in delight despite the ordeal she had been through.

The little cry sounded again and it began to grow louder as Madam Pomfrey lifted a small bundle up from the foot of the bed and over Lily's still swollen tummy.

Severus watched his wife gasp in awe as the healer placed that little bundle into her arms.

The sternness and irritation fell away from Madam Pomfrey's face as she looked at the new parents and smiled in spite of herself while she informed them, "Congratulations, Mr. and Mrs. Snape, you both have a healthy son."

The baby in Lily's arms had thick, fluffy tufts of black hair and his mother's vividly green eyes.

Lily cooed and giggled at their newborn. She bonded with her child instantly, just like most omegas did with their new babies.

Severus was in too much shock to bond with anyone right then.

He had known, of course, he had prepared, but somehow as he gazed down at that little life, the physical product of his love for Lily, Severus couldn't quite wrap his mind around the concept.

Father.

He was someone's.....father.

Chapter 8 - Professor Slughorn's Kindness

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Madam Pomfrey sent word down to Professor Slughorn and when the news arrived that Lily had given birth to a healthy, baby boy, the entire room erupted in cheers.

Although many had spent the school year ostracizing the couple for their premature choices and Lily's unintended pregnancy that followed as a result, the dramatic exit from class had gathered her and Severus some support.

No one wanted to see anything really bad happen to Lily or her baby.

The only people in the room who didn't applaud were James Potter and his friends Sirius, Remus, and Peter.

James was scowling so intensely that Sirius was afraid his friend's face would be frozen in that expression forever.

The rejected alpha was bitter that it hadn't been his son Lily had delivered.

Sirius, Remus, and Peter may have cheered if James hadn't been present but with him sitting beside them at the Gryffindor table, there was no way they could have expressed their relief that Lily was alright, regardless of the circumstances.

James would have hexed them all until they were unconscious.

In the infirmary, the Snape family spent some time getting acquainted with one another after Madam Pomfrey helped Lily deliver the afterbirth and clean up.

Severus sat beside his wife and held her hand as he watched her cuddle their little baby in complete awe.

"He's beautiful, isn't he, Sev?" Lily asked in a quiet whisper while she gently rubbed one of her fingers against their newborn's chubby little cheek, which earned her a coo in response from the baby.

"Not as beautiful as his mother." Severus replied reverently.

Lily chuckled at her alpha's stubbornness but when she took her eyes off the baby and looked up at Severus, she was almost startled by the loving gaze that he was giving her.

Lily was about to respond when Severus dropped his eyes back towards their little son and watched as the baby turned his little head towards Lily's finger and opened his tiny mouth.

“He’s hungry.” Severus asserted. He visibly braced himself as if a hungry baby was a dreadful emergency.

Lily rummaged around on the bed as she tried to free herself from the confines of her shirt.

“Can you help me, Sev?” She asked while she struggled.

Madam Pomfrey had cast several sterilizing spells during and after the birth. Lily was clean and dry, but there were no hospital gowns in the infirmary for students to use. She was still dressed in her Hogwarts uniform and as the baby in her arms started to whimper for the fluid that flooded her breasts at the sound, she was growing increasingly uncomfortable.

Severus immediately stood from his seat and took the baby from Lily while she wriggled herself free from the confines of her sweater, then her Gryffindor tie, and finally, her uniform shirt.

Severus tried not to stare at Lily as she unclasped her bra and let her heavy breasts spill into open view.

He cleared his throat and handed the baby back to his omega as he looked away.

It wasn’t that he was trying to take advantage of his mate, he knew it was inappropriate for him to want to look.

Severus couldn’t help it though, he thought Lily was the most beautiful girl he’d ever seen, he thought-

“Sev?” Lily asked. A single word from her called his thoughts away.

“Yes?” Severus asked as he blinked over at Lily, careful to keep his gaze locked on hers.

“I don’t mind if you watch.” Lily reassured him.

Severus frowned tensely at Lily but she smiled at him in return before she looked down at her baby and tried to move him into position.

Severus had read over some material on the subject and as he observed Lily working with the baby for a moment, his concern grew.

What if his son had trouble eating?

What if his son had been born without a stomach?

What if-

Lily gasped quietly as her newborn found one of her fattened nipples and latched on. She laughed as she looked up at Severus and felt her little boy eagerly start to devour his sustenance.

Severus allowed himself the luxury of a gentle smile as warmth flooded his heart at the tender scene in front of him.

“We need a name, Sev.” Lily sighed as she settled back against the pillows.

The omega enjoyed feeding her baby at first, until low, deep cramps began to roll through her abused belly.

“You’re the one that’s given birth.” Severus said as he furrowed his brow, “I’ll let you decide on the name.”

“You’re my alpha.....” Lily winced as she shifted again in bed, irritated by the greedy way that the baby suckled.

The pains that were triggered in her aching womb were quite inconvenient.

“Lily? Are you alright?” Severus asked quickly as he rose from his chair and came over to stoop beside his love.

“I’m fine, Sev.” Lily whispered as she squirmed on the bed, “The books said this would happen.”

“Do you think it’s another child?” Severus asked worriedly as his eyes darted to Lily’s abdomen, then back to her face.

“No!” Lily reassured him with a laugh of amusement, “I’m fine, Sev. Really, I’m fine. Calm down.”

As Severus gazed at Lily, she raised a hand and gently stroked his face. Before she had the chance to pull away, Severus reached over and kissed her open palm.

The couple would have kissed on the lips, but Madam Pomfrey bustled by and cast them a warning glare.

Instead of kissing Severus, Lily decided to revisit the original subject that they had been speaking about.

“He does need a name, though.” She mused as she looked down at her newborn who was still enjoying his first meal.

“We didn’t talk much about names.” Severus replied.

“I suppose that we should have.” Lily said thoughtfully as the baby finally released her and squirmed in her arms. He whined impatiently for more until she switched him to the other side.

“I like the name ‘Harry.’” Lily blurted out.

She was concerned that Severus would think “Harry” was too bland or too.....mundane.

Lily gazed nervously at her spouse.

Severus looked at her while he asked, “Would you be happy if we called him ‘Harry’?”

“Yes, I think so.” Lily blinked.

“Then that’s what we’ll name him.” Severus nodded.

Lily smiled brightly in excitement as she reached out and took Severus’s hand with her free arm, “Oh, Sev! Thank you so much!”

Severus kept Lily’s hand in his as he bent forward and kissed her sweetly before Madam Pomfrey came by again to notice.

Severus didn’t have a very strong opinion about his newborn son’s name, his only desire had been for Lily and the child to make it safely through the birth.

Harry Snape.

If Lily wanted to call their little boy Harry, that was fine by Severus.

Whatever made Lily happy, it was fine by Severus.

Later that evening, once classes had finished for the day, Severus quickly made the journey back to his and Lily’s home in Hogsmeade to quickly collect the things they would need for an overnight stay.

Madam Pomfrey had informed the husband and wife that she would prefer if Lily and baby Harry spent the night in the infirmary for observation.

After Severus had finished packing a bag with their necessities, he returned to the infirmary and saw that Professor Slughorn had come to visit Lily and meet his newest future student.

“Severus!” Professor Slughorn called out with a bright smile as the new father walked into the room, “You’ve got a fine young lad here! You must be very proud!”

“Yes, sir, thank you. I am.” Severus said as he nodded to his potions professor.

Severus knew that he had nothing to fear at that moment, but being away from Lily and the baby for even such a short time took its toll on the young alpha. As hormones flooded Lily’s body in the aftermath of the birth, instinct flooded Severus, and he hurried over to her side as if she and the baby were in some sort of great danger.

“Don’t worry about me hanging around too long, you two are some of my best students. I trust you both!” Slughorn said as he reached inside the pockets of his robes and pulled out two sets of parchment, “Do you two have quills?”

“Professor?” Lily asked as she blinked her tired eyes.

Severus glanced from Lily to Slughorn as Slughorn handed one set of parchment to Severus and one set to Lily, which she took in her free hand while her other arm was busy cradling Harry.

“Your exams! You two didn’t get to finish, but don’t worry, I’ll be happy to come back and collect them later! I know you two won’t cheat with each other.” Slughorn nodded, “Let’s see.....you two left about five minutes into class and we allowed three hours for the exam today.....I’ll be generous! I won’t hold the five minutes against you two! It’s seven now, so I’ll be back to collect your answers at ten! Do you two have quills?”

“I have quills that they’re welcome to use, Professor.” Madam Pomfrey called mercilessly over to Slughorn.

“Ah, very well then!” Slughorn nodded. He smiled at Severus and Lily before he took his leave from the room, “I’ll see you at ten!”

Severus looked over at Lily, dumbfounded.

He blinked his wide, black eyes at his wife in irritated disbelief. Severus himself appreciated strict rules and a commitment to academic excellence, but was there really no mercy that could be shown to new parents under such extreme circumstances?

Lily looked over at Severus forlornly. He didn’t think he could recall a time when his darling flower looked so faded and exhausted.

Lily resigned herself to the task that she had been assigned and stared down at the parchment in front of her.

As Lily read over the unanswered questions on the page, Harry squirmed in her arms and began to whimper as he nuzzled his face into the softness of her chest.

With a sigh, Lily unbuttoned her shirt again and laid Harry to her breast just as Madam Pomfrey walked over and handed her a quill, then one to Severus.

Severus wondered if he had wasted his time by going and collecting a bag for them to sleep in the infirmary.

He and Lily both realized that between the baby and their exams, it was probably not going to be a very restful night at all.

Chapter 9 - The Joy of Family

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Neither Severus nor Lily knew if they could even think properly enough to finish Slughorn's exam, but somehow, they managed.

Their strict professor stayed true to his word and came to the infirmary exactly at ten to collect their parchments.

By the next morning, he informed the exhausted couple that they had both passed their tests with top marks.

When Slughorn delivered the news, in Lily's arms, baby Harry stretched and gave a sharp, happy cry almost as if he was congratulating his young parents.

Everyone laughed at the sound, even Madam Pomfrey, as she stood beside Professor Slughorn and smiled down at the little family.

Lily and Harry were allowed to go home later that day.

Once the Snapes were packed up and had been discharged from the infirmary, before Lily's feet ever touched the hallway, Severus reached over. Carefully, he scooped his wife and their tiny baby up into his arms.

"Sev!" Lily laughed as Harry blinked at his father, "What are you doing?!"

"It's a bit of a distance to Hogsmeade." Severus replied, "You don't need to walk that far, you've just given birth."

"Put me down!" Lily chuckled, "I'll be fine, Sev, it's not that long of a walk. Madam Pomfrey said that I should move around, remember? It'll decrease the chance of a blood clot."

Severus's brow furrowed as he looked worriedly into Lily's green eyes.

"If I get too tired, I'll let you know, alright?" Lily asked as she combed a stray strand of Severus's soft, black hair away from his face.

With visible reluctance, he sighed as he sat Lily gently back on her feet. Silently, Severus offered her his arm and with the one that wasn't holding Harry, Lily gladly accepted her alpha's subtle gesture of protection.

Together, Severus and Lily walked out of the infirmary, through the castle, and back to their flat in Hogsmeade with their son in tow.

Severus kept glancing nervously at Lily but his omega seemed to be doing well as they entered their apartment with baby Harry half asleep in her arms.

“You should sit down.” Severus commented as he and Lily stepped through their door and he closed it behind them.

Lily didn’t even hear Severus.

When she walked into her home, she went straight to the small nursery that they had prepared beside their bedroom.

When he noticed that Lily had already moved away from him, Severus quickly glided down the hallway and watched from the door to the nursery as Lily lovingly reached over the high railing of the crib and softly laid tiny little Harry down to sleep.

As soon as he touched the mattress, Harry moved slightly and stretched his miniature hands but he didn’t wake.

Lily smiled proudly down at her baby for a moment but when she felt eyes watching her, she glanced up at Severus.

Slowly and carefully, Lily walked away from the crib and joined her husband at the door.

Severus took Lily into his arms and left the door to their son’s nursery cracked so they could hear him when he cried.

As he led Lily back down the hallway towards the sofa in the living room, he squeezed her hand tightly in his and she returned his grip.

Their exams were complete, they were married and mated, and their first child was sleeping soundly in his bed.

At the tender age of eighteen, Severus and Lily’s adult lives had already begun.

Having received their graduation present a bit early, instead of partying and lounging about like their classmates after the school year concluded, Severus and Lily settled into being parents as they learned how to care for their newborn.

It was convenient for the couple that there wasn’t much of a graduation ceremony at Hogwarts because they were both too tired to attend.

Beyond the baby’s demanding schedule, Harry’s grandparents flooded the apartment to meet and visit their new grandson.

Lily's mother and father were thrilled about Harry, although Severus shot his sister-in-law, Petunia, a dangerous scowl when he caught her glaring hatefully at her tiny nephew.

Severus's mother smiled bittersweetly when she had visited and Lily had placed Harry in her arms.

Severus frowned at the scene.

His father hadn't come to see the baby, which was alright.

Severus hadn't wanted him to anyway.

Like all decent new mothers, Lily put every effort into caring for her baby. Whenever Harry whimpered day or night, she raced to answer his cries and see to his needs right away.

Severus loomed behind her like a watchful shadow.

The young alpha did his best to support his wife and see to her care and his son's.

Lily was nursing and she changed most of Harry's diapers before Severus had a chance to step in, but that didn't stop her husband from finding other ways to aid his mate.

When Harry was two weeks old, Lily woke in the middle of the night to a very familiar sound.

“WWWWAAAAA!”

“WWWWAAAAA!”

With a sigh, Lily opened her green eyes and tried to sit up quietly in bed so she wouldn't disturb Severus.

Her body had not completely recovered from the residual aches and soreness that the birth had caused.

She was bleeding and cramping and crying at random intervals...all of the postpartum symptoms that she wished someone had warned her about during her pregnancy.

Lily silently stood to her feet and wrapped her robe around herself as she stepped into the hallway and padded down to the nursery towards Harry's cries.

“WWWWAAAAA!”

“WWWWAAAAAAA!”

After she entered Harry's room, Lily cooed soothingly to her tiny boy while she bent wearily over the crib and gently lifted him up into her arms.

Harry's cries quieted into hopeful whimpers as he snuggled against his mother's chest.

Slowly, Lily trudged out of the nursery and down the short hallway.

She and Severus had only been able to afford a single chair for Harry's room and although it did rock, it was wooden.

During Lily's recovery from Harry's delivery, she had learned that sitting on things that weren't soft was unpleasant.

She much preferred the sofa in the living room and she had a good inkling that until she healed to the point where she no longer used the witch-hazel infused sanitary napkins that Severus had made for her, she would most likely continue to use the sofa in lieu of the rocking chair.

Harry grew impatient as he smashed his little face against the disappointing folds of Lily's robes and nightgown and she whispered to him reassuringly while she stepped out of the hallway and into the living room.

When Lily's eyes drifted over to the sofa, some of the exhaustion eased from her fair face and she exclaimed happily, "Sev!"

Severus was already there waiting for her and Harry. He was sitting straight up on the sofa and had placed two fluffy, velvet pillows in front of himself so Lily could lean back against him for comfort.

On the small coffee table in their little living room, Severus had prepared a warm cup of peppermint tea for Lily and it sat, warm and steaming, as it also waited for her.

"You don't have to get up with me." Lily smiled at her alpha as she happily sat down on the sofa and let him pull a throw blanket over them both to guard against the evening chill, "This is really more my job than yours."

Harry had become outright angry that he was going hungry even though he could smell his food. As he opened his little mouth to wail in furious protest, Lily quickly moved her robe aside and unbuttoned her nightdress to expose herself to her baby.

Severus shifted to help her position Harry better and he smiled slightly when the cry his son threatened was silenced as he finally found Lily's plump nipple.

Lily sighed at the feeling and cuddled back against Severus while Harry nursed. With his free hand, Severus stroked her red hair and watched her peacefully close her eyes.

Lily turned her head and laid her face in the crook of Severus's neck while a wave of drowsiness attempted to overcome her.

It was comfortably warm there on the sofa, with Severus behind her, and his arm around her.

Harry's gentle, rhythmic suckling was lulling her off to sleep.

Severus's scent was so rich and calming.....

Severus smiled as he felt Lily go limp against him. He was careful to bring his own arms up to cradle the baby so the infant wouldn't roll off the couch and crash into the floor.

As Lily started to snore, Severus watched Harry unlatch himself and squirm irritably until his father gently turned him to Lily's other breast, which he eagerly began to suckle instead.

Twenty minutes later, Lily was in a deep, solid sleep and Harry, who had eaten his fill for the next hour and a half, joined his mother in a similar, heavy slumber.

Severus could carry Harry in his arms and by using a bit of magic, he could help Lily back to bed without waking her, but he wasn't ready to dismantle the scene yet.

Severus was tired himself, but it never grew old to him, watching his beautiful wife and the life their love had produced.

He sat there on the couch for some time and watched his little family sleep.

He admired Lily's beauty as he stood guard behind her and Harry both as if some terrible monster would come crashing in at any moment and steal away his happiness.

Happiness?

What a strange word that used to be to Severus Snape.

Severus didn't mind helping Lily, taking care of her, or seeing to the household chores.

Severus didn't mind being sleep-deprived or the baby's cries.

Severus, so early in his life, already mated with a family, had found happiness, and holding onto it, holding onto Harry and Lily.....that was his utmost concern.

Chapter 10 - Severus's New Robes

Thank you for reading! I don't own any of Harry Potter! Please let me know if you enjoy!
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Although it was exhausting, sometimes disgusting, and sometimes frightening, it was the best summer that Severus and Lily had ever experienced.

Little Harry was doing well. He grew more and more every day and by the end of the season, both of his young parents were amazed at how rapidly their baby boy was growing and changing.

Lily had finished healing from Harry's arrival but she and Severus were glad that she hadn't experienced another heat yet.

The couple were living off of the meager savings they had managed to scrimp together and donations received mostly from Lily's family.

Another baby was not financially in their grasp at the moment.

Severus was excited to begin his apprenticeship with Slughorn, but as the summer faded away and the new school year approached at Hogwarts, he couldn't help feeling sad about having to leave his mate and baby to go to work.

Still, as he and Lily sat eating dinner one night, which consisted of yet another soup thrown together from the week's leftovers, Severus was anxious to begin his new job.

Dumbledore had agreed to pay Severus just under what a fully trained professor would make.

Severus couldn't wait to bring that income home and use it to buy Lily and Harry every comfort that they wanted.

Severus couldn't wait to provide for his little family.

Lily was very proud of her husband's accomplishment, despite their hasty indiscretion that had been frowned upon by society. As much as others abhorred their decision to rush into each other's arms, Lily loved Harry more than anything in the world, except, perhaps, Severus.

Severus loved Harry too, but it was his affection for Lily that drove him to want more and to want to become more.

The night before classes began, as Slughorn's apprentice, Severus was expected to make an appearance in the Great Hall during the Sorting Hat ceremony.

That, along with his new position as a whole, had presented the Snapes with a dilemma.

Severus obviously couldn't wear his old student uniform, but he and Lily didn't have the money to buy any suitable, new robes.

Severus's family had no money to lend to the couple, and Lily's family had given all that they could afford.

So then, Lily decided to work with what little resources the couple had.

During one of her rare outings, two weeks before the new school year started, Lily had found some heavily discounted, black curtains at a home decor shop in Diagon Alley.

She bought them without Severus's knowledge.

Lily then took it upon herself to rise early each morning while her alpha was still asleep and use the sewing skills her mother had taught her along with a little bit of magic to make Severus some fine new robes to wear.

On the night Severus was expected in the Great Hall, while he dug through the few articles of clothing that he owned in a desperate attempt to find a shirt that wasn't faded or some pants without noticeable holes along the hem, Lily walked into the bedroom with a box in her hands.

"Sev?" She asked quietly.

Severus looked up and blinked at Lily when he saw her standing in the doorway with the box in her arms, "Yes, my love?"

"I know you're trying to get dressed....." Lily said with a wry smile as she stepped forward and handed the box to Severus, ".....But I think this may help."

Severus looked at Lily incredulously as he slowly reached out, took the box from her, and removed the lid.

His black eyes narrowed as they flickered down to the folded cloth that lay inside, then back up to his wife.

Severus sat the box on top of the dresser and carefully pulled out the heavy, black robes to admire them.

Severus was stunned.

"I really hope you like them, Sev!" Lily beamed excitedly.

"Lily.....we can't afford these." Severus said with a frown as he looked over the robes.

Severus didn't think he had ever owned anything quite so nice.

The robes had been tailored to his measurements exactly, crafted from fine, durable black fabric. The sleeves and the chest were lined with elegant buttons and there was even a long, detachable cloak that hung from the shoulders.

“We can though, Sev!” Lily replied, “I made them myself, don’t worry. They actually cost us very little.”

Severus looked over at Lily with his eyes still narrowed, “.....You made these?”

“That’s right.” Lily beamed proudly.

“.....For.....me?” Severus asked in disbelief.

“Well, I don’t think they’ll fit Harry yet, love.” Lily giggled.

Severus didn’t know what to say.

He clutched onto the robes as if they were something very precious instead of garments fashioned from plain draperies.

No one had ever gone out of their way to do something so kind for Severus Snape.

He didn’t understand why he was so surprised, he and Lily loved each other, he knew that.

They had mated, they had married, she had taken his last name and borne him a son.

Regardless, it touched Severus that his sweet omega was loving and caring enough to do something so.....so selfless, just for him.

And Lily had done it so well!

Severus quickly removed his trousers and eagerly tried on his new robes. He did leave the undershirt he was wearing on and once he was dressed in his new outfit, the single white ruffle on the ends of his sleeves peeked out around his wrists.

The outfit that Lily had made for him fit perfectly.

Tall and lean, in his new black robes with his cloak billowing around his long legs, Severus cut quite a commanding figure.

Lily walked up behind him and smiled at his reflection while he stood in front of the full length mirror that the couple kept in their small bedroom.

She thought that her alpha looked very handsome, so handsome in fact that Lily decided she wanted a kiss.

Lily stepped in front of him and Severus slipped his arm across her waist. Lily immediately hugged herself to his chest and she laid a hand against the long row of black buttons that fastened Severus’s robes.

Severus looked down at his wife and he could see from the look in her green eyes that they were about to.....

Severus's heart fluttered as their lips met.

Lily put a hand up to his cheek as their kiss deepened.

While they staggered towards the bed, Severus was holding onto his sanity.

He hadn't made love to his omega since their baby had been born.

Severus had to be gentle with Lily but he also had to hurry, he was due in the Great Hall in little more than an hour.

Great Hall or not, as Severus laid Lily down on the bed and let her undo each of the buttons on his new robes one by one, he was held hopelessly trapped under his omega's magicless spell.

Whatever else was going on in the world, there would never be anyone or anything as important to Severus as his darling Lily.

An hour later, Severus was dressed again in his new, black robes. He sat at Professor Slughorn's side at the long table in front of all of Hogwarts' students as Dumbledore made his opening announcements for the new year.

Severus tried to look as serious and as concerned as possible as he scanned out over the young faces, most of which had been his peers only a few short months ago.

After a sweet, intense, but short-lived tryst, Severus had left Lily in a disheveled mess lying on their bed with a warm blush across her cheeks and her breath coming in elated gasps.

He had tucked her into the blanket with a kiss before he had left, hoping she could take a moment to relax before Harry woke from his evening nap and cried for her milk again.

Lily and Harry were the only things on Severus's mind while the Sorting Hat ceremony took place.

At some point, the meal was served, but Severus barely noticed when.

He took only enough food to be polite, he was planning on eating a proper dinner with Lily once he returned home.

"What lovely robes, Severus!" Slughorn remarked halfway through the evening.

Severus took a sip of the water he was drinking to swallow the food in his mouth. Once he could politely reply, he nodded at his new boss and replied, "Thank you, sir."

“I must say, the craftsmanship is excellent! You look as if you should be the professor instead of me, my boy! Where did you get them?” Slughorn asked.

Severus had worried at first that he may feel ashamed of wearing handmade clothes, especially since he had grown up wearing whatever mismatched rags his mother had been able to find for him, but these.....these were different.

Severus’s black, buttoned robes weren’t just any handmade clothes.

These were the clothes that Lily had made out of her love for him.

“Lily made them for me herself, sir.” Severus replied with a nod.

“Did she?!” Slughorn exclaimed, “I’m not surprised! Your Lily’s a bright little thing, Severus! You two make a good pair.”

“Thank you, sir.” Severus nodded in polite acceptance of Slughorn’s compliment.

Lily being a “bright little thing” was an understatement to Severus.

Lily was everything to Severus.

As he sat there in the Great Hall away from his family, it gave him not only pride but comfort to wear the robes that Lily had sewn for him.

It made Severus feel comforted, as if she was there beside him.

Severus made a silent vow that he would wear those robes for as long as he could. If Lily would be kind enough to make him a few more sets, then he saw no reason to ever go clothes shopping again.

Chapter 11 - Challenges?

Thank you for reading! I don't own any of Harry Potter! Please let me know if you enjoy!
Updates every Saturday!

"Well, Professor~? How did it go?" Lily excitedly asked Severus later that night while Harry slept in his nursery and the two of them sat eating their meager dinner together at their small dining table.

"I'm not a professor yet, Lily." Severus chided, trying not to smile when Lily smirked at him with genuine pride.

"You may as well be, Sev." She replied with a knowing shrug.

"I'm only an apprentice for now." Severus corrected his mate.

"For now.....Honestly, what do you think Slughorn has planned? I expect he'll retire in a year or two and you'll be the new potions professor, that's why he's offered you this job in the first place." Lily shrewdly assessed.

"Perhaps....." Severus mused, "He admired my new robes.....Everyone did."

"Really?" Lily asked with a bright smile.

Severus nodded, "No one could believe they were handmade. I received several compliments commending their craftsmanship."

A shy blush swept over Lily's cheeks and her smile remained as she answered, "Well, I'm glad, Sev. Once we have a bit more savings, we can buy you some proper robes."

"These are proper robes." Severus answered very seriously.

"Not really." Lily said with a small, humble laugh.

"They're the only robes for me." Severus stubbornly insisted.

Lily was going to laugh again, but when she looked up from her plate and met Severus's gaze, the loving intensity with which he stared back at her made her heart swell in her chest.

Lily was elated that she had managed to please her alpha so well with a simple sewing project~.

The next day was difficult for Lily and Severus.

The school year officially began and Severus started his position as Slughorn's apprentice.

Lily hadn't really been prepared for the hours of loneliness that a housewife had to endure.

There was an unignorable void in her day as she spent it by herself with baby Harry, who was asleep for a large portion of the time.

Lily caught herself glancing over to the chair that Severus usually preferred. As the afternoon dragged on, she half-expected to look over and see him staring back at her over the edges of a textbook.

The omega frowned every time she realized, with crushing disappointment, that Severus was not, in fact, at home.

Whenever Lily saw Harry gazing up at her with his wide, curious eyes, she smiled down at him reassuringly so he wouldn't feel worried or upset about his father's absence.

Little Harry had grown accustomed to Severus being nearby too and Lily had learned during her brief time as a mother that babies possessed much more intuition than people acknowledged.

It couldn't be helped, though, she and Harry would just have to make it through.

Severus had to go to work to support their little family.

Daycares didn't exist in the wizarding world.

Lily's parents weren't retired yet so they couldn't care for Harry and allow her to seek employment.

Severus didn't feel comfortable leaving his infant son in his own mother's care.

Lily's alpha was the breadwinner for the time being.

Severus had a promising job and decent pay, and for that, Lily was glad.

Regardless, she truly wished that there was a way that she and Severus could earn a suitable income from home or at least, together, without spending their days apart.

Going from being constantly beside his omega and baby to working all day was an adjustment for Severus as well.

While he enjoyed academic pursuits, he missed seeing Lily's smile.

He missed hearing Harry's happy giggles.

Severus wondered if the school day at Hogwarts had always been that long or it only seemed to double in length since he had a loving family waiting for him at home?

A family~.

Severus Snape had a family.

As wonderful as that was, when Severus thought about it, there were still moments where he couldn't believe it was really true.

Each day after class, Severus would complete his tasks and patiently wait for Slughorn to end his monologue for the day and dismiss him.

Dismissed wasn't really the right word.

Released, that was more accurate.

Every day, Severus was waiting to be released to go home to Lily and wrap his arms around her.

Every day, Severus was waiting to be released so he could kiss his lover's lips, scoop baby Harry up, and hold him.

What Severus loved most about being a parent was how much he already saw of Lily in their baby.

Severus had never considered himself to be a very warm person, so he knew that Harry must get his cuddliness from Lily.

While Severus worked day in and day out, learning the trade of teaching by shelving books, grading assignments, and following Slughorn around, he dreamed of Lily and of Harry.

Like his omega, Severus dreamed that one day, he and Lily could all spend their time together.

Severus was doing his best to work towards his desired goal.

After a few months, once he, Lily, and Harry were in a much better financial position thanks to his earnings, Severus took a portion of his wages and walked into Gringotts.

He felt a bit out of place as his black shoes clicked across the grand, polished floor of the largest bank in Britain's wizarding world.

Gringotts was having a busy day.

Severus lamented his plight of being forced to run his errand so close to the crowded bank's closing hour. There was a sizable queue formed in front of the goblins' desks, but Severus patiently stood and waited his turn.

When his chance finally came, Severus wore an anxious frown as he approached the tall desk and the menacing-looking goblin who sat behind it, writing diligently as the quill in his wrinkly hand bobbed along.

“Yes?” The goblin barked without looking up at Severus, “Name?”

“My name is Severus Snape.” Severus replied.

The goblin failed to be impressed and he continued to stare down at his paperwork as he bellowed, “State your business!”

“I’ve come to open a savings account.” Severus replied.

The goblin snarled and looked up from the parchment on his desk. He peered over the small frames of his glasses and scowled down at Severus as he snorted and replied, “You’ve come to purchase a vault this late in the day?”

“I have. Unfortunately, I have to earn my living, and this is the only free hour that’s available to me.” Severus nodded, “Now.....are you going to help me, or shall I take my gold somewhere else?”

Severus tossed a small pouch full of galleons onto the goblin’s desk for his inspection.

The goblin examined the contents of the pouch for a moment.

Once the goblin’s examination was complete, he sneered at Severus, but he reached inside his desk drawer and pulled out a key.

A gentle smirk ghosted across Severus’s lips as the goblin heaved himself down from the desk and waddled towards the cart that led to the vaults.

Silently, Severus felt a surge of quiet triumph rush through his veins as he followed the unfriendly creature.

Despite his late arrival, Severus had known that he would be able to count on the greed of Gringotts’ goblins.

The alpha’s victory was somewhat short-lived.

After he had completed his transaction at Gringotts, secured a vault, and made his first deposit, he returned home that evening to find little Harry crying and Lily pacing back and forth in the nursery while she frantically rocked the infant in her arms.

“WWWAAA!”

“WWWAAAAA!”

As Severus narrowed his eyes and worriedly glided down the short hallway in their small flat towards Harry’s wails, he missed the welcome home kiss that his omega usually greeted him with each day upon his return from work.

“WWWWWAAAAA!”

Severus had already grown accustomed to the sweet token of affection from his loving mate.

“WWWWAAAA!”

Severus narrowed his eyes when he came to the nursery doorway and saw the worried look on Lily’s face as her pacing led her to face him.

“Hey, Sev.” Lily murmured absently as she saw her husband looking at her and Harry from the doorway, “Sorry, I didn’t hear you come in.”

Severus’s eyes flickered to Harry in her arms and he scowled in concern when he saw his little son’s face, drawn up in a tight, tormented scowl as he screeched wildly.

“WWWWAAAA!”

“WWWWAAAA!”

“That’s alright, Lily.” Severus replied over Harry’s shrieks.

“WWAAAA!”

The sensitive alpha mourned the loss of Lily’s sweet smile, but he knew by the sound and look of Harry that it wasn’t missing without good reason.

“What’s the matter with him?” Severus asked as Lily turned her attention back onto their baby.

“WWWWAAA!”

“He’s been ill all afternoon.” Lily explained with an exasperated sigh as she tried to switch Harry around in her grasp, “He’s fussy, he’s spat up all day.....I can’t get his temperature down and he won’t stop crying, Sev...He won’t stop and I don’t know what to do!.....I’ve tried a settling charm, I gave him some of the soothing tonic from the apothecary.....nothing’s worked.”

“WWWWAAAA!”

Severus’s face was nearly as anguished as Harry’s as fear filled the worried, young father.

“Have you given him any infant’s draught?” Severus asked.

“No! When have I had time to brew that?! I can’t lay him down!” Lily snapped before she stopped herself.

“WWWWAAA!”

The look of hurt on Severus’s face made her frown and she shook her head as Harry’s cry broke into little, shuddering gasps, “Sorry! I didn’t mean to be rude.....I’m just terrified, Sev! He’s sweating through his clothes.”

Severus kept his eyes narrowed as he walked over and took his miserable little pup from Lily's hands.

“WWWAAAA!”

Harry was so slick with perspiration that he nearly slipped out of his father's grasp and Severus quickly declared, “I don't think we should bother with a potion. Lily, let's get him to St. Mungo's.”

Lily looked at her alpha and nodded.

Tears gathered in her eyes as she grabbed her purse and held onto Severus while he raised his wand. Before he apparated all three of them to the hospital, Lily asked her mate, “What's wrong with our baby, Sev?”

“Probably nothing.....just a fleeting illness. The healers will know how to help him.” Severus calmly nodded to reassure his mate.

Severus spoke bravely to bolster Lily.

While the Snapes traveled to St. Mungo's, Severus felt his heart clench in his chest with mortal dread.

What if something was really, terribly wrong with his little son?

What if....What if the healers couldn't help?

Chapter 12 - A Desperate Situation

Thank you for reading! I don't own any of Harry Potter! Please let me know if you enjoy!
Updates every Saturday!

“WWWAAA!”

“WWWWAAAA!”

Harry's cries had become even more agitated by the time Severus and Lily arrived at St. Mungo's.

Severus kept his arm protectively around his mate while she rushed up to the reception desk in the emergency department, clutching her feverish baby in her arms.

As soon as the nurse on duty took one look at little Harry, she whisked the young family back behind the door that led to the patient bays so quickly that Severus couldn't remember if she had even bothered to ask their names.

He immediately found it odd that he and Lily weren't shown to one of the waiting areas there in the emergency department but were instead herded quickly past the rows and rows of empty beds, into the lifts, and up to the second floor.

“WWWWWAAA!”

“But...isn't this the Magical Bugs ward?” Lily whispered as they stepped out of the lift.

Lily kept attempting in vain to soothe Harry while she frowned at the nurse who ushered them along.

She tried to gently bounce her small son, but she had the intuitive feeling that there wasn't much she could do to calm her baby until the healers remedied whatever ailment plagued him.

“WWWWWAA!”

“That's right, Miss, this is indeed the Magical Bugs ward.” The nurse said patiently to Severus and Lily when they all finally came to a stop in the center of the wide hallway on the hospital's second floor.

The nurse took pity on the small family.

She looked at the squawking baby in Lily's arms with sympathy, and frowned at his concerned parents, who both appeared to be startlingly young.

The nurse had noticed something right away about Harry that Lily and Severus, in their panic, had missed.

On the underside of baby Harry's little jaw, there was a tiny, barely visible.....red.....spot.

That red spot on Harry was surrounded by a dreaded, greenish tinge that was rapidly spreading outwards across the infant's pink skin.

"W-What's wrong with my baby?!" Lily cried as a set of nearby doors opened and two healers approached her and Severus.

Both of the healthcare workers were clad in long robes, rubber gloves, and thick masks that covered their entire heads.

"WWWWAAAAA!"

"I'm so sorry, my dear, but I believe your baby may have Dragon Pox." The nurse said calmly while the healers stepped forward and began to pry Harry out of Lily's arms.

Lily whimpered in defiance as she fought fiercely to keep her grip on her baby until Severus narrowed his eyes, and gently placed his hand on his omega's shoulder.

Lily glanced over at Severus with a frown and he nodded at her in approval, then at the healers, to silently grant them permission to treat his suffering son.

"WWWWAAAAA!"

One masked healer spoke to Lily, who started to weep hopelessly as she watched Harry be carried down the hall in the arms of the other masked caregiver, "We'll run some tests immediately, Mrs....?"

"Snape!" Lily sobbed as she raised her hands to her face, "I'm Mrs. Snape and...this is my husband, Severus....and.....that's our baby! Please! I need to stay with him!"

In that grim moment, Severus's heart fluttered with a sweet rush of pride.

Mrs. Snape~.

Despite their dire situation, he loved hearing his darling Lily declare to the world and everyone in it that she was his and he was hers.

"We're going to help your son, Mrs. Snape." The masked healer nodded at the distraught mother very empathetically, "Dragon Pox is easily curable, if that is the little lad's diagnosis. We'll have the cure in him by nightfall. Tell me, has anyone else besides you three....," the healer asked as he looked between Lily, Severus, and the nurse, "....come into contact with the baby since he fell ill?"

"N-No." Lily sniffed as she wiped her eyes, "My husband is employed at Hogwarts, b-but....our son...was fine this morning when he left for work."

Lily cupped a hand over her face when she failed to stifle her sobs and Severus frowned.

He reached over and wrapped his omega in his cloak as best he could in hopes of comforting his wife.

Severus didn't want to frighten Lily any further but an ominous question burned in his mind and he sought reassurance from the healer as he asked, "What if it's not Dragon Pox?"

"It most likely is, but if it's not, we'll find out what is troubling your little one, Mr. and Mrs. Snape, don't you two worry!" The healer reassured the anxious couple with a nod.

Severus had the impression that underneath the heavy, opaque mask, the healer was smiling at him and Lily as he added, "Your baby will be just fine."

After providing what words of encouragement he could, the healer turned and hurried away.

The nurse gave Severus another sympathetic smile when Lily gasped and clung to his chest as she broke down into gut-wrenching cries that only a heartbroken mother was capable of producing.

Severus knew that omegas had difficult roles.

From letting their alphas have their way with them to bearing children to keeping the family together and functioning day in and day out, the traditional roles of an omega were not easy to fulfill.

Still, Severus wondered if being an alpha wasn't an even greater challenge at times?

As Severus held his beloved flower in his arms, unable to do anything for her besides cradle her as she wailed and wept for Harry, it was all he could do not to wail and weep right along with her.

Severus and Lily sat together, waiting in a quarantine area while everywhere they had stepped in the hospital was sanitized.

The nurse who had brought the couple to the second floor was decontaminated and quarantined as well. With her permission, the nurse was also given precautionary potions to prevent her from contracting whatever illness that had afflicted Harry.

Lily's sobs had quieted into dismayed, forlorn, whimpering tears and Severus let her cry on his shoulders with a frown while they waited to hear what was wrong with their poor little pup.

After what felt like an eternity, the door to the room that Severus and Lily sat in finally swung open and the same healer who had spoken to them upon their arrival in the Magical Bugs ward stepped inside.

"Mr. and Mrs. Snape?" The healer asked.

Lily looked up and Severus gazed at where he best estimated the healer's eyes were behind the mask.

"Yes?" Severus asked nervously.

Lily sniffled.

"I'm very sorry, but your son does have Dragon Pox." The healer nodded.

A dry, crackling gasp came from Lily's throat and Severus scowled as he clutched her hand in his own, eager to listen to what else the healer had to say.

"Please don't be alarmed.....As I said earlier, Dragon Pox is very treatable. It's also usually more dangerous for the old than the young, so your son has a good chance of survival." The healer said confidently.

The healthcare worker's statement was intended to be a relief, but when Lily heard the word "chance", her heavy sobs returned.

"We've already given the cure to your baby. His fever should come down soon." The healer nodded.

"Thank you very much." Severus replied with a nod as he held Lily and patted her back.

Harry's mother was too upset to speak, but the healer went on, "There is one more issue.....Mr. Snape, we're going to give you the cure as well since you've been exposed to your son's germs. I'm afraid you won't be able to return to work until the baby has recovered completely and we're certain you won't fall victim to the illness. An outbreak at Hogwarts would be disastrous."

"What about my wife?" Severus asked as he glanced over at Lily, then back to the healer, "She's been home all day with the baby. You need to take preventative measures with her as well!"

"I'm afraid we can't do that, Mr. Snape, unless she chooses otherwise." The healer calmly responded. The masked healthcare worker looked at Lily as he spoke, "Mrs. Snape, if you intend to continue nursing your son.....the cure is discouraged for certain patients, that includes expectant mothers and women who are breastfeeding." The healer staunchly replied.

Lily glanced up at Severus, over to the healer, then back at Severus.

Severus opened his mouth with the intention of suggesting that maybe Harry should be weaned in favor of Lily receiving the cure, "My love--"

"-No, Sev." Lily interrupted, standing up to her alpha with a resolved frown. She looked at the healer and wiped her green eyes once more before she asked, "Is there any detriment to my son if I decide to take the cure?"

"There would be no exact danger to him, Mrs. Snape, but mother's milk is always the healthiest for an infant. It may even increase his odds of survival, however, should you also

come down with the disease, refusing the cure until symptoms begin could lower your own chances.” The healer explained with solemn honesty.

Severus knit his brow in concern before Lily sniffed and nodded bravely, “That’s alright, I want to help my son in any way that I can.”

Severus looked at his mate with a frown of reverent admiration.

Help Harry?

.....Or protect her own life?

Severus was ashamed to admit that if he had to make the decision himself, he wasn’t entirely certain which option he would have chosen.

As the healer had mentioned, Severus was given the Dragon Pox cure and sent home with a letter to his employer that detailed his family’s current predicament.

Loneliness was a terrible punishment for the worried alpha.

Severus longed to be with Lily and to watch over Harry, but that wasn’t allowed under St. Mungo’s strict protocol.

While he moped around their vacant apartment, back at the hospital, Lily also felt frightened and isolated.

Since Lily had refused the cure in favor of feeding Harry, she was kept in an observation unit on the Magical Bugs ward, and only allowed to visit with her baby when he nursed.

Severus barely slept.

Lily fitfully tossed and turned in her cot.

Mr. and Mrs. Snape both spent the entire night devastated about their separation and worried about Harry.

The next morning, while Lily looked down at her baby as he took what little he wanted of his breakfast, she put a hand up to her mouth to cover the deep cough that forced itself from her chest.

On the back of her neck, close to her hairline, there was a red spot with a telltale greenish tinge that Lily hadn’t noticed yet.....

Chapter 13 - Severus Snape, Potioneer

Thank you for reading! I don't own any of Harry Potter! Please let me know if you enjoy!
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Lily sat and did her best to let Harry nurse his fill, but by the time he was nearly finished, she was light-headed.

One of the healers working in the Magical Bugs ward saw the young mother start to waver with dizziness and hastily rushed to Lily's aid.

"Mrs. Snape!" The healer shouted through their mask as they eased Lily back against her chair and rushed to support Harry so he wouldn't roll out of her limp arms, "Mrs. Snape! Can you hear me?!"

Lily drew in a shallow breath and tried to keep her heavy eyes open as she blinked blearily.

The masked healer called for help and shortly afterwards, several other masked healthcare workers dashed into the room.

Harry was gently taken from his mother while the healers laid her in the supine position.

Lily could hear them, yes, but her body felt like it was made of stone.

Her pulse was rapid, her cheeks were flushed, and the perspiration that oozed from her pores had caused her robes to adhere to her flesh.

The healers knew before Lily realized that to her horror, she was too weak to respond.

Severus rose that morning with a frown.

He dressed with a frown.

He prepared and ate his breakfast with a frown.

Not only was he worried about Harry, but his hours alone in the empty flat that he usually shared with Lily had been catastrophically humbling to the alpha.

How vacant everything seemed without his mate and son.

How pointless!

Severus had barely been terribly uncomfortable in his lonely bed during the previous night.

He missed feeling Lily's soft weight behind him.

He missed being able to reach over and touch her.

He missed being able to nuzzle into her thick, red hair.

He missed knowing that she was there with him.

Severus cleaned up his mess from breakfast with a quick wave of his wand.

He was anxious to get to the hospital and be reunited with his little family.

It had been less than a full day since the separation had occurred, but to Severus, he had spent more than enough time apart from Lily and Harry.

Severus apparated straight to the Magical Bugs ward of St. Mungo's.

After he waited in the hallway for a brief moment, a masked healer came out to greet him.

Severus shifted anxiously on his feet as he spoke calmly to the healer, "Hello, my name is Severus Snape. My infant son, Harry, is being treated for Dragon Pox here. He was given the cure yesterday and my wife, Lily, stayed with him during the night. I've come to visit them both."

The masked healer looked at Severus for a long moment and Severus's frown crept back over his face at the ominous silence that followed his own introduction.

Severus understood that the protective gear the healers in the Magical Bugs ward wore were for their own safety, but he still found it eerie that he couldn't see the healer's eyes.

The healer replied with a shake of his head, "I'm sorry, Mr. Snape, but I'm afraid visitation is not possible."

Severus's heart clenched inside his chest and his jaw tightened.

He opened his mouth to speak, forcing the words out of his dry throat as he inquired, ".....May I ask.....why not? They assured me that my son should recover quickly and my wife is very strong, I'm certain that she-"

"Your wife became ill early this morning. Also, I'm afraid your son's fever hasn't broken. You'll have to come back later, Mr. Snape. We can't allow the healthy to visit the ailing." The healer nodded.

Severus blanched at the healer's news.

From behind his mask, the healer watched the color drain from Severus's face as he processed what he had just learned.

Angry and terrified, Severus lashed out.

“What do you mean my wife is ill?! And why hasn't my son already recovered?! I was told that he was given the cure yesterday!” Severus snapped in a scathing tone.

“Yes, sir, that’s correct, your son was given the cure yesterday.” The healer nodded, “However, the word ‘cure’ is a relative term. We usually have very good results with that particular potion, but Dragon Pox can be....virulent. The ‘cure’ that we administer can’t resolve every case and it can’t reverse every symptom. I would think that Lucius Malfoy’s father is a notable example of that. As for your wife, according to her records, we did offer the cure to her for preventative measures and she refused. It was notated that we advised her of the risks and benefits to both accepting and refusing the potion.....and she made her decision.”

Severus swallowed thickly as he gazed at the healer with terror in his black eyes.

He knew very well that his friend Lucius had indeed lost his father to the dreaded disease.

Severus also knew that it wasn’t widely publicized but there were outbreaks of Dragon Pox that regularly occurred in the wizarding world and unfortunately.....lives continued to be claimed by the illness, despite the benefits that the “cure” boasted.

Severus narrowed his eyes at the healer, determined not to let his mate and son be numbered among the victims that the “cure” failed.

“Give the cure to my wife immediately!” Severus commanded the healer, “Perhaps it may save her! Isn’t there anything else you can give my son?” Severus asked the healer.

“No, Mr. Snape. There isn’t anything else we can do for your wife or your son but make them comfortable and wait.” The healer shrugged, “Your wife is still nursing, so for that reason alone, there’s many healing potions we can’t administer. Pain tonics and such aren’t permissible for use on an infant, so that rules out a lot for your son. I’m sorry, Mr. Snape, we offered the cure again to your wife this morning and she refused it a second time. I don’t think it would matter much at this point, anyway. In adults, the cure works better at preventing, not treating. Her body will handle this disease in whatever way it sees fit.”

“So there’s nothing at all, then....?” Severus asked the healer in disbelief.

“Now, it’s really more a matter of patient observation.” The masked healer nodded.

““A matter of patient observation?”” Severus echoed, “My wife and son are lying in bed, fighting for their lives and in this hospital, all you can stand there and tell me is that the chances of their survival cannot be improved by any means that you have here?! That their fates are a ‘matter of patient observation’?!”

“Mr. Snape, I’m very sorry!” The masked healer exclaimed with an apologetic shrug, “I’ve already told you! We’ve given your boy the cure, your wife won’t take it.....there’s little else we can do!”

“What are their odds?” Severus bluntly demanded of the healer.

The healer hesitated and Severus held his breath as each awful second passed before the healer finally spoke, “.....They weren’t in bad shape before they sickened...I’d say their chances are.... fairly decent.”

Fairly decent.

Severus peered at the healer incredulously for a moment before he turned on his heel and stalked away.

“Mr. Snape? Where are you going?! You won’t be allowed to see them, but you can stay for a bit in case there’s an update!” The healer called out.

Severus was so irritated that he didn’t even bother to turn around.

Fairly decent.

He had better things to do than loiter in an empty hallway and wait for word on whether or not Harry and Lily’s “fairly decent” chances of survival would end in their favor.

St. Mungo’s may have run out of ideas, but Severus Snape hadn’t.

Not yet.....

The distraught alpha returned to the flat that he shared with his beloved omega.

Severus furiously roamed around his small home while he busily gathered books, ingredients, and a cauldron.

He reviewed medical texts, ancient passages, and his own school books that he had kept in his possession.

Severus also gladly referenced the parchment page that detailed the exact way to brew the cure for Dragon Pox.

Since he couldn’t return to Hogwarts for the time being, it was fortunate that he had chosen to keep his books and a supply of various ingredients on hand.

He tirelessly experimented with a little cinnamon, a dash of peppermint, and a tad of echinacea.

That, combined with his own techniques, and a few other added ingredients, was how Severus managed to alter the original Dragon Pox cure into a formula that was far safer and more effective for new and expectant mothers, the elderly, and infants.

Severus bottled up his new concoction and returned to the hospital later that evening.

The masked healers gladly allowed Severus into the hallway, but in the Magical Bugs ward, that was as far as he was going to get.

Well, that was as far as Severus was going to get with permission.

“Is it still not permissible for me to see my wife and son?” Severus asked the masked healer that stood between him and the door which led back to the patient rooms.

“I’m sorry, Mr. Snape,” The healer said with a regretful shake of his head, “Little has changed since your visit this morning.”

“I was given the cure yesterday.” Severus scowled at the healer with narrowed eyes, “I’ll take it again if need be, but I’d very much like to sit with my family, even if I can only do so for a moment.”

“Unfortunately, we can’t allow that to happen, Mr. Snape.” The healer firmly insisted before he turned away from Severus and opened the door that led to the patients’ rooms.

The healer thought that he would leave the hallway and escape the persistent, worried husband, but Severus was exceptionally cunning.

Following the healer silently and swiftly, Severus slipped through the door, right behind the masked healthcare worker, just before it closed.

Severus was painstakingly careful to follow the healer noiselessly as they traveled down the sterile, desolate corridor.

Being a wizard who had mastered broomless flight, Severus never let his shoes touch the slick tiles of the hospital floor as he trailed behind the healer undetected.

While they passed room after room, Severus glanced into each narrow window of every closed door to get a glimpse of the patients inside.

He was searching for Lily and Harry.

After some time passed and their journey continued, Severus was starting to feel discouraged, until the healer rounded a corner.

There, through the window of the first door on the left, Severus saw his beautiful Lily lying in bed.

The healer obliviously walked on as Severus opened the sealed door with a nonverbal spell and slunk inside the room.

He was expecting a joyous reunion with his darling omega, but his heart sank when he noticed that she was sleeping.

As he crept forward, a scowl formed on his face as he gazed down at his wife.

Her hair was matted, her skin was nearly covered in thick, red spots that colored the nearby flesh a sickly green. Lily’s brow was furrowed in her sleep from her discomfort and as Severus looked down at her, he could see the sheen of sweat across her closed eyelids while her body fought against her fever.

Severus looked around the room and noticed the nearby bassinet.

Worriedly, he walked over and peered down inside to find baby Harry.

Severus was glad to see that his son seemed to be doing a little better than Lily, but the telltale spots on his tiny body also remained.

Severus pulled a glass vial from his pocket, which contained a small amount of the revised cure he had formulated.

As Severus stood in his family's hospital room, he inhaled deeply.

The healers weren't willing to do anything else.

There was nothing else that the healers could do, apparently.

Severus very gently tilted little Harry's head back and poured a couple of drops from the vial into his son's mouth.

Once the baby swallowed safely, Severus moved over to Lily and did the same with her, although he gave his adult wife a much larger dose.

After Lily swallowed and moaned in her sleep at the pain that simple movement brought, Severus sat by her bedside and stared at her hopefully.

His black eyes were unusually large and wide with worry.

If Severus hadn't been frightened that he may hurt Lily by doing so, he would have held her hand.

Severus sighed as he waited.

He didn't care if the healers came in and told him to leave, he wasn't going anywhere.

He didn't care if the cure failed him and he ended up catching the ailment with which his wife and child had been stricken.

Lily and Harry's recovery was the only thing that mattered to Severus Snape.

Chapter 14 - A Fortunate Discovery

Thank you for reading! I don't own any of Harry Potter! Please let me know if you enjoy!
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Severus peacefully remained in the room with his wife and son until the healers in the Magical Bugs ward made their rounds to check on the ailing patients.

When two masked healthcare workers opened the door and found Severus standing beside Lily's bed, completely unprotected and completely uninvited in the sealed room, they began to shout at him.

"Sir, we have to ask you to leave!"

"This is a restricted area!"

"I'm not going anywhere! Bring a bed in for me and I'll lay beside them if I must!" Severus protested as the healers lunged and grabbed hold of him by his arms.

When the healers dug their fingers into Severus's biceps, they noticed the empty glass vial in his hand.

One healer asked Severus incredulously, "What is that?.....Have you given these patients something?!"

"Yes, I have.....it's a cure for Dragon Pox of my own invention." Severus said defensively as the healers began to haul him off, "The composition is similar to the original but.....I formulated it differently!" Severus cried, "Please, listen to me! I only want to help my wife and child!"

"And you think that administering an unapproved medication, not included in their plan of care, was a good way to do so?" The other healer asked the alpha with disgust.

"WAIT!"

It was that shout that silenced the trio's heated argument.

The healers maintained their grip on Severus as they turned around to discover who had called out.....

Severus's black eyes widened as he saw her, his darling mate, sitting up in bed.

At the mere sight of her alive and awake, he gasped in relief, "Lily!"

Behind their masks, the healers gaped openly.

Judging by Lily's complexion, it was evident that her fever had broken.

Across what was visible of her face, neck, and arms, those ominous red spots were disappearing, along with the sickly, green tinge they brought.

"Please don't take him away!" Lily cried out to the healers as she reached towards Severus.

The healers were so startled that their grip on Severus loosened and he hastily freed himself to run to his wife.

Severus paid no attention to the germs that he could come into contact with as he wrapped his arms around Lily and kissed her lovingly.

"Lily....." Severus whispered in a deep growl as he held onto her with a gentle possessiveness, ready to guard her from Dragon Pox, the healers, and whatever else threatened to rip his beloved flower from his side.

"I feel better, Sev." Lily marveled with a small laugh of joy, "I feel much better! Did they give me the cure while I was out?"

As the couple embraced, the healers abandoned their mission to separate Severus from his diseased wife in favor of pursuing their own research.

Cautiously, the two healers walked over and peered down into the baby bassinet that held little Harry.

The small baby seemed to have progressed faster than his mother in his recovery since he had been given both the original cure and his father's formula.

The infant smiled happily up at the baffled, masked healers who blinked at him.

Harry's red spots had vanished without a trace.

The smallest Snape was pink, happy and.....healthy.

"Harry.....?" Lily whimpered to Severus after he stole another kiss.

The alpha was ashamed that he had been so overjoyed about Lily's improvement that he had all but forgotten about his little son for a fleeting moment.

Severus swiftly rose from Lily's bedside and whisked over to Harry's bassinet.

He paused and raised an eyebrow in surprise when he saw how well Harry seemed to be doing and the frozen postures of the masked healers, which suggested they were just as shocked.

".....Mr. Snape?" One of the healers asked.

Severus silently looked over at the covered healthcare worker who addressed him.

The healer asked with great curiosity, “Would you mind telling us what’s in that potion that you gave to your wife and son?”

Severus graciously shared an overview with the healers of the mixture that he had given Lily and Harry.

As Lily cuddled their baby contentedly, Severus was more than glad to acquiesce to one of the masked healer’s subsequent requests.

He returned home only long enough to collect the rest of the potion, which he had left bubbling in the cauldron.

When Severus apparated back to Lily and Harry’s room in St. Mungo’s, he was a little overwhelmed to find an entire team of hospital staff waiting for him.

By then, Lily looked as healthy as if nothing at all had ever happened to her.

“Mr. Snape?” One of the healers asked.

“Yes.....?” Severus answered cautiously, “Is something.....amiss?”

“No, not at all.” The healer nodded, “Your wife and son are doing fine, remarkably fine, actually. We’ve talked it over with the entire team of the Magical Bugs ward and we’d like to ask if you’ll allow us to administer your potion to several others here in our care?”

Severus narrowed his eyes suspiciously as he spoke, “Isn’t that.....unethical? This....formula....hasn’t been approved by the Ministry for safety yet.....How can it be given to others?”

Another healer nodded at Severus as she explained, “We currently have several other young children who are sick with Dragon Pox as well, and one expectant mother. Their prospects of recovery are slim, we’re afraid. We’ve already discussed it thoroughly with their families and they’re all quite eager to give their loved ones the same chance that you gave yours.”

Severus frowned as he thought.

“What do you say, Mr. Snape?” Another healer asked urgently.

Severus silently held out the glass vials into which he had poured his potion, offering his work to the healers at St. Mungo’s to take and use as they deemed appropriate.

From her bed, Lily smiled proudly at her husband.

As Severus glanced over at his wife, he bathed in the look of joy on her face.

If Severus could save others, then that would be a wonderful, welcome reversal from the grim situation that his own family had faced.....and if he could earn Lily’s admiration while doing so, then that would be an even greater merit to the alpha~.

Severus was credited with rescuing not only Harry and Lily that day, but three other children and the expectant mother who also lay in St. Mungo's, suffering from Dragon Pox.

As glad as Severus was to have been of some help to others, his true mirth was drawn from being allowed to take Lily and Harry home.

Once they were settled back into their small apartment, Severus helped Lily put Harry to bed and then he thoughtfully drew his wife a relaxing bath.

Lily sighed happily while she soaked in the tub.

She closed her green eyes as Severus gently washed her with a washcloth dipped in the warm water.

His eyes were soft as he allowed his gaze to ghost over Lily's bare breasts and the elegant curve of her neck.

"I'm really proud of you, Severus." Lily said quietly.

Severus's black eyes shone with a gentle tenderness as he frowned and replied, "I was only thinking of you and Harry."

"That doesn't matter." Lily replied, "You made the right choice, Sev. It was very sweet."

"I'm not.....'sweet'." Severus disagreed with another frown.

"You are to me." Lily smiled softly as she opened her eyes.

Severus stared at Lily and devoured the soft look of respect that she gifted him.

Once the water grew tepid, he helped her out of the tub, dried her off, and tucked her into bed.

As Lily drifted off to sleep, healthy but still exhausted from her ordeal, Severus gently stroked the strands of vivid, red hair that had fanned out behind her head on the pillow.

His beautiful flower was blooming once more~.

The next two months passed and with them, Lily and Harry gradually regained their energy.

During the days, Severus returned to his post at Hogwarts and diligently performed his duties as Slughorn's apprentice.

Although before Severus left each morning, he was very careful to make sure that Lily and Harry had everything they needed until he returned a few hours later.

The alpha was quite surprised when a letter was dropped in his lap by an owl at breakfast one morning in the Great Hall.

Severus scowled as he hesitantly opened the mysterious envelope.

His mail usually came to his flat, why had the letter been sent to the castle instead?

Severus's interest piqued when he failed to recognize the return address on the envelope.

As he opened the envelope and pulled out the parchment it contained, he quickly read over the black letters:

To Mr. Severus Snape,

It has been brought to my attention that you are the inventor of the newest concoction that has been brought to our laboratory. I was told by the best healers at St. Mungo's that its effects on the fragile and the delicate are quite profound. Upon conducting our own controlled experiments with the substance, we discovered that our findings have been similar. The potion you formulated has officially been approved as a safe alternative to the original cure for Dragon Pox and with your permission, it will be manufactured, distributed, shipped, and administered throughout the wizarding world by all committee-verified potions dealers. We are contacting you to formally ask for your permission to proceed? If you agree to share your product, you will receive an initial payment for the patent, along with credit for its invention, and royalties throughout each year from the mass brewers of this mixture, as long as it remains in use.

Sincerely,

William P. Higginbotham

Chairman of the Ministry of Magic's Potions Committee

As Severus lifted his eyes from the page, his pale face was anguished.

He couldn't believe what he had just read.

He wondered to himself if there was any reason why he shouldn't agree to the request he had received?

A patent check and then royalties.....that would be ideal.

Severus's little family could certainly use the money.

Besides, what good would it do to refuse and keep the formula to himself, why not let others continue to use it?

That afternoon, Severus sent his response.

Dear Mr. Higginbotham,

I, Severus Snape, hereby give my permission for my potion to be manufactured, distributed, and administered. In return, I only request proper credit and payment for the patent and royalties as promised.

Sincerely,

Mr. Severus Snape

Apprentice of Professor Horace Slughorn, Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

Severus chose not to trouble Lily with the matter, hoping to present the patent check to her as a pleasant surprise, no matter what meager amount it may bear.

One week later, during breakfast in the Great Hall, an owl brought Severus another letter.

That letter was different though, that letter had just a slight bit of extra weight to it.

Severus eagerly opened the envelope while he sat beside Slughorn at the High Table and scanned over its much briefer verbiage.

Dear Mr. Severus Snape,

Thank you for your consideration and your cooperation. The acceptance letter you have sent was investigated for security purposes, along with your whereabouts and personal accounts. Manufacturing of your potion has already begun, please see your enclosed cheque as your initial patent payment. Expect smaller royalty payments to be sent to you every 3-4 months for the remainder of the time the potion is used. If its use extends past your lifetime, the mentioned royalty payments will be sent to your next of kin.

Sincerely,

William P. Higginbotham

Chairman of the Ministry of Magic's Committee for Potions

Severus scowled as he reached inside of the envelope and pulled out the patent cheque to view the amount.

Maybe he and Lily could buy a few things they needed for their apartment with the money.

Maybe they could start a fund for Harry to receive when he came of age.

Severus nearly fell out of his chair in abrupt and sudden shock when he looked at that patent cheque.

His heart pounded in his chest as he stared down at that scrap of paper, focusing very hard on the numbers to make sure that his black eyes hadn't betrayed him.

He read the amount again.

Again.....

And again.....

And again.....

When Severus was certain that he was correctly viewing the cheque, his hands trembled involuntarily.

That little slip of paper would change his life, and Lily's, and Harry's forever.

There, across the cheque, the figure was clearly and unmistakably written:

1,000,000.00 galleons

Chapter 15 - Telling Lily

Thank you for reading! Please let me know if you enjoy! I don't own any of Harry Potter!
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That patent cheque was for more money than Severus had ever seen, more money than he ever thought he would have in his lifetime and as the day wore on at Hogwarts, he felt like that single slip of parchment was a heavy brick in his pocket.

When Severus left his workplace that afternoon, he stalked out of the castle, traipsed down the hill to Hogsmeade, and apparated straight to Diagon Alley.

As he walked towards Gringotts, he remained unconcerned that he was once again visiting the bank so dangerously close to its final business hour of the day.

Severus knew that when the goblins saw the amount of money he wanted to deposit into his vault, they wouldn't be too bothered by his arrival time either.

Moments later, Severus stood on the magical bank's marble floor staring up at the wrinkly goblin who blinked down at him.

The goblin held Severus's cheque in his splotchy hand, but he was too incredulous to move for a moment.

".....You say this was given to you as payment for a patent, Mr. Snape?" The goblin growled.

"Yes." Severus nodded, ".....For a potion that I've recently invented. The reason is written on the line there, take a closer look."

The goblin gnashed his teeth and impatiently crinkled the paper in his hands as he spoke, "A cheque of this amount will have to be tested for validity. Wait here."

"Of course." Severus answered.

The anxious alpha stepped back and politely waited a respectful distance from the goblin's desk while he watched the hateful creature turn around.

As he peered up over the goblin's tall desk, Severus could see that the bank employee pulled out his own wand and performed several magical examinations on that unbelievable cheque.

The scene made Severus want to smile in amusement.

Once the legitimacy of the patent cheque was no longer in question, the goblin turned and looked back down at Severus with a snarl as he asked, "And what do you intend to do with

these funds, Mr. Snape?”

Severus teetered for a moment as he frantically pondered potential scenarios of how he might use the money.

Severus had grown up poor and needy.

During his childhood, there were days when he didn't even have enough food to eat.

Now, as a married father, his little family survived solely on his somewhat meager salary from Hogwarts, one disaster away from being in the same, grim situation he had known in his adolescence.

Severus desperately wanted to cash the cheque, buy everything that he could for Lily and Harry, everything imaginable!

Clothes, jewels, toys, houses.....

Where would the Snapes end up though if Severus depleted all of their funds on frivolities?

Severus would have wasted his chance at securing a lifetime of happiness for himself, Lily, and Harry.

He had no idea how much the royalty payments would be, but the letter from the Ministry had specifically stated those payments would be “smaller”.

Severus swallowed as he answered the goblin, “I'd like to take a handful of galleons with me and the rest I'll thank you to place in my vault.”

The goblin sneered down at Severus as he replied, “As you wish, Mr. Snape.”

The greedy creature's expression was still unpleasant to behold but Severus noticed that the rude undertone had vanished from the goblin's gravelly voice.

Severus Snape was no longer a struggling young man in the eyes of Gringotts vault keepers.

That day, Severus Snape became a very important customer to the magical bank.

With a few galleons in his pocket and the rest of his wealth safely in the Snape family vault, Severus left Gringotts and stepped out into the street with his heart as light as his head.

After Severus quickly formulated a plan in his mind for the evening, he apparated away to Lily's parents home.

Five minutes later, Severus returned to that exact spot in front of Gringotts.

In a dizzy haze, he rushed down the sidewalk, brushing past those who lingered aimlessly.

Severus swept into Diagon Alley's largest toy store.

After Severus made his purchase there, he then promptly visited one of the best dress shops in the wizarding world.

Severus took the time to speak to a jeweler for a brief consultation before he made one final stop at Diagon Alley's most famous restaurant.

The Malfoys, Severus's affluent friends, ate there often, but he and Lily had never had the means.

They had never previously had the means, anyway.

When Severus finally made it back to their apartment, he found Harry in his high chair and Lily beside him, sitting at their small dining table by the door while she waited to greet her husband when he finally came home.

"Severus, you've frightened me! Where have you been?! It's not like Slughorn to keep you this late!" Lily exclaimed.

As she stood up and walked towards Severus, her green eyes narrowed when she noticed the packages in her alpha's arms and she asked incredulously, ".....What's all this?"

"I'm sorry I'm late, my love..... I made a few.....stops.... on the way home." Severus explained as he sat the packages down on the table.

Lily and Harry blinked at Severus while he opened one of the many parcels and pulled out a plush hippogriff.

From his high chair, Harry squealed in delight as Severus walked over and handed the item to his excited baby.

Baby Harry didn't have very many toys.

Due to his young age, little Harry didn't notice his lack of belongings, but he was overjoyed to have something new with which he could play.

"Sev, where-" Lily started to ask but Severus interrupted her as he handed her a couple of boxes and ordered his omega, "Go and get dressed."

"Get dressed for what?" Lily questioned as she blinked in surprise.

"For dinner.....I've already made reservations." Severus nodded quickly.

"Sev, we can't-" Lily began but Severus interrupted her again in a low purr as he went on, "- We need to drop Harry off at your parents' within the hour, I've already received their permission.....We're scheduled to be at our table by seven, so please don't dally."

"But.....But I don't understand!" Lily laughed as Severus placed a hand on her back and walked her towards the bedroom, hoping that she would stop resisting and accept the wonderful surprise he had in store for her.

“Please, Lily?” Severus asked with a frown as Lily gave him one last, incredulous smile.

“Sev, I’d love to!” Lily laughed, then she shook her head as she went on, “But I know full well that we can’t afford all this! What’s gotten into you? We won’t be able to pay our bills next week with you splurging like this! Did Slughorn give you a raise?”

Severus couldn’t stop the smug smirk that spread across his lips as he looked into Lily’s innocent, green eyes and replied cryptically, “Not a raise, exactly, but.....that’s what I wanted to speak to you about.”

“.....Then speak to me about it.” Lily huffed as she planted her feet where she stood.

“My sincerest apologies, my love, but I can only do so over dinner. If you’d like to hear the news, I’m afraid you’ll have to get dressed and come with me.” Severus replied nonchalantly.

Lily playfully scoffed at Severus as if she were very offended, but she grinned widely as she walked into the bedroom and proceeded to change into the beautiful outfit that those packages contained.

While Severus waited on Lily to ready herself for the evening, he glided over to Harry and lifted his son from his high chair.

Severus settled himself into a seat at the dining table and placed little Harry down on his lap.

The chubby baby looked up at his father curiously and put one of his pudgy hands into his mouth as Severus watched him closely.

As Harry blinked his large, green eyes at Severus, the alpha’s heart swelled in proud relief.

Harry would want for nothing.

Lily would want for nothing.

Severus would see to that.

Severus had purchased a gorgeous, sparkling, green dress for Lily, complete with a flowing hem and supportive straps. In addition to her dress, he had also bought her a pair of silver shoes, silver earrings, and a matching silver purse that she could carry easily in her hand.

When Lily stepped out of the bedroom in her glimmering ensemble, she couldn’t help the blush that covered her cheeks when she saw Severus’s black eyes widen and his mouth drop open as he gazed at her in silent admiration.

“You look..... beautiful.....my love.” He managed to rasp as Lily walked over to him.

“Thanks, Sev.” Lily replied with a sweet smile, “You chose well.”

“Shall we be off, then?” Severus asked as he reached out his hand to his mate.

Lily nodded eagerly and as she clasped Severus's hand, before he could do or say anything else, she pressed a deep kiss to his lips.

Lily's kiss was a gentle torture for Severus.

Between Lily's smile and her dress, he was ready to toss aside their dinner date in favor of spending the entire evening in bed with his omega instead~.

Severus and Lily left Harry in his grandparents' care for the evening before they apparated together to the elegant restaurant at which Severus had made their dinner reservation.

Lily's eyes widened when her husband brought her to the best and most expensive eatery in Diagon Alley.

While they sat and enjoyed their fabulous meal, Severus's eyes never strayed from his omega as he admired how ethereal she looked under the soft, inviting glow of the candlelight.

"Sev?" Lily asked quietly as she leaned towards him.

"Yes, my love?" Severus replied with an uncharacteristic gentleness in his voice.

Severus was careful not to lean across the table too closely to Lily, frightened that he would forget where they were and publicly steal a kiss from his lover's deliciously red lips.

"You promised that you'd tell me what all this is about!" Lily chuckled quietly. Her eyes scanned over Severus's face as she added, "I really don't see how we're able to afford this, Sev."

"The Ministry's Potions Committee wants to use my formula for Dragon Pox cure." Severus replied as Lily leaned back in her chair.

Lily stared at him for a moment and asked with narrowed eyes, "Your formula?.....Do you mean the one that you gave to me and Harry?"

"Yes." Severus nodded, "I made some changes to the original Dragon Pox cure composition. St. Mungo's been administering my version of the potion since you and Harry came home. The results have been so positive that I received a letter from the Ministry.....They mentioned they would credit me as the inventor of the new cure if I gave permission for my formula to be manufactured and distributed in mass quantities."

Lily was quiet for a moment before she asked anxiously, ".....What did you say, Sev?"

"I agreed." Severus replied, "The Potions Committee also stated that they'd send me a cheque for the patent and then royalties every so often.....The patent money arrived this morning."

"Oh....." Lily said as realization dawned on her, "How lovely! We don't have to worry about the bills then!"

“We don’t have to worry about anything, my love~.” Severus answered in a deep drawl.

Lily looked at her husband and frowned as she asked, “Well.....Sev, what do you mean? How much money did they send you?”

Lily leapt onto Severus while they were still in the hallway to their apartment, locking her legs around his slender waist as the angled edges of her skirt dangled between them.

Severus fumbled with the lock on their door as Lily cupped his face in her hands and began to kiss him vigorously.

After his tenth failed attempt to fit the key inside the hole, Severus murmured into their kiss and the door finally opened.

Tangled together in a loving embrace, Severus and Lily stumbled inside their small home.

The Snapes hadn’t spent an undisturbed night in each other’s arms since Harry had been born.

Intoxicated by the thrilling possibilities that their bright future held, the couple had barely made it out of the restaurant before they gave into their desires for each other.

Lily knew that it was late.

She and Severus didn’t have much time before her mother and father would be retiring for the evening, but before they went to collect Harry, the Snapes chose to take a selfish moment for themselves.

Severus fell onto the couch with his wife and vanished her panties while they remained locked in their passionate kiss.

Severus’s hands flew over his mate’s curves, breathing in the sweet scent of his omega while she writhed underneath him, reveling in his touch.

Lily barely broke their connection to reach between them, unfasten Severus’s trousers, and guide his eager manhood into her waiting, wet center.

Severus groaned against her lips as she swallowed him whole and together, they began to grind against each other.

Their labored breaths and heated groans were the only sounds in the room as they coupled.

Lily’s nails raked her alpha’s back when her walls fluttered around Severus and she felt him spill himself deep within her.

Severus would have loved to cuddle with his darling.

Severus would have loved to go another round too, but by the time they finished, they had only a fleeting moment to quickly clean themselves with a spell so they could go and bring Harry home.

Severus looked forward to using the patent money for many things, but most of all, he wanted to utilize his newly acquired wealth to secure himself more time with his beloved wife.

What better use could Severus make of his recently acquired assets~?

Chapter 16 - The Future

Thank you for reading! I don't own any of Harry Potter! Please let me know if you enjoy!
Updates every Saturday!

When the morning arrived, Severus woke first.

In the silence that held the promise of a new day, he propped himself up on his elbow to look down at Lily.

Still asleep, her face was relaxed and her skin seemed almost pearlescent in the glow of the sun's gentle rays.

Lily's pale blue nightgown had thin straps across the shoulders and Severus took a moment to admire the creamy skin that covered her throat and hinted at the firm mounds of her breasts.

His gaze moved upwards and he watched the sunlight glisten off of her red hair, highlighting the multitude of shimmering shades that her mane contained.

Severus looked back at Lily's face and realized that his heart had started to quicken in anticipation of her opening those beautiful, emerald eyes and gazing at him while a smile crossed her plump lips.

He drew in a breath when that happened at last and Lily's eyelashes fluttered as she blinked up at him with a wry smile.

"Good morning, Sev." She whispered quietly, her eyelids still heavy with the after effects that came from a night of deep, restorative sleep.

"Good morning, my love." Severus purred as he bent down and finally got to taste those plush, pink lips.

Lily groaned softly and lazily draped an arm around his neck as she drowsily kissed her alpha back.

Severus pulled away with his eyes closed once he finished enjoying his mate's sweetness for the moment.

For Severus and Lily, the world had seemed bright and lovely since they had mated in the Room of Requirement, but knowing that they had stumbled upon financial security for generations to come if they chose wisely, the happy, young couple felt like they could do anything.

The biggest question that hung between them was.....where to go from there?

Severus had too much honor to simply quit and never return to Hogwarts, although he really had no interest in continuing a career that kept him away from his family for the majority of his waking hours.

Lily seemed to be a bit more selfish than her mate.

Severus could feel time passing and he moved to stand from the bed.

Before he could get to his feet, Lily caught his wrist and smiled at him again as she whispered, "Sev.....stay with me."

Severus watched Lily gently move her fingers pleadingly over the back of his hand.

He took a deep breath and inhaled the intoxicating scent of his mate that wafted from her skin as she sat up to get closer to him.

With a sigh of deep remorse, Severus found the courage to look at Lily and do something that he absolutely despised, on the rare occasions when it was necessary.....he refused her request.

"I can't." Severus told his wife, "Slughorn has been generous to us.....at least, he's tried to be. I can't just abandon my post without a proper warning."

Lily frowned at her alpha but he raised an eyebrow and held up a hand as he continued, "However.....I'm putting in my notice today. He'll have two weeks to find a replacement, if he still desires an apprentice."

It was Lily who sighed then, with a great, heaving breath that made her full breasts jiggle through the thin fabric of her nightgown.

Severus's black eyes eagerly observed the motion, hungrily focusing on Lily's curves as she pouted, "I have to wait two weeks to spend all day, every day with you then?"

She was teasing Severus and he knew it, but he decided to humor his omega and play along.

"That's your plight, my love." Severus purred as he leaned in and crushed his lips against Lily's once more.

That time, Lily was determined to keep her hold on her alpha.

She cupped his face in both of her hands while she pulled Severus down to settle on top of her.

He was careful not to crush her, but he couldn't help that his hips became flush with hers or that the growing bulge in his trousers aggressively pressed against her thigh as she whimpered.

"I need to be off, Lily." Severus whispered against her lips.

“Mmm, Sev, So do I.....” Lily gasped needily before she dared to bite his bottom lip sharply, sending a shock of pain and arousal surging from his lips, through his heart, all the way down to his groin.

“Lily, I have to go now.” Severus insisted but as Lily rubbed herself against him, Severus realized that those weren’t welcome words to his mate.

Lily slyly moved underneath him to slip out of her nightgown.

When she had wriggled the garment down far enough that her heavy breasts tumbled into his view, Severus grit his teeth at the uncomfortable way his manhood throbbed at the sight.

He could still make it to class on time, surely Slughorn would forgive him for missing one breakfast in the Great Hall?

Severus was certain that his kind employer would and besides, Lily’s milk was more nutritious anyway~.

Severus didn’t bother to pen a letter to Slughorn, instead, he told his employer himself about the bittersweet news.

Slughorn nodded at Severus in understanding while they stood in the empty dungeon classroom, chatting during the lunch hour.

Severus saw a spark of happiness in his former teacher’s eyes, but he frowned when he heard the remorseful tone in the older man’s voice, “Well, I’m glad for you, my boy! Use it well, not everyone gets a break like that! You’re welcome to stay on, if you’d like, but considering your situation....a young wife at home and that adorable little son of yours.... I don’t blame you for leaving!”

“I am truly sorry to let you down, sir.” Severus frowned as he watched Slughorn flash him a wry smile, “I had hoped to become a professor one day, but it seems that circumstances are beckoning me down a different path.”

“Professor of Potions?” Slughorn asked Severus.

Severus blinked at Slughorn and furrowed his brow as he asked, “.....I beg your pardon, sir?”

Severus did not enjoy losing and he wasn’t entirely fond of quitting, either.

He had hoped to excel in whatever career he pursued.

However, if Severus would have stayed in academia, he would have much preferred to eventually teach Defense Against the Dark Arts, not Potions.

Did Slughorn know that?

Was he insulted?

“Professor of Potions, Severus, or Potions Master?” Slughorn asked with a smirk.

Severus narrowed his eyes incredulously before he asked, “Forgive me, sir, but isn’t the title of ‘Potions Master’ given to professors only?”

“You do have to teach to become a professor, but that’s not necessarily true to become a ‘Potions Master’ in the strictest sense of the term.” Slughorn explained. He raised his eyebrows as he looked at Severus and explained, “Nowadays, ‘Potions Master’ usually refers to the current instructor of the subject here at Hogwarts, but not all of the previous ‘Potions Masters’ have spent their entire careers in the classroom. You have a real talent for the science, my boy.....I dare say that if you’ll assist me with a few special projects over the next couple of years, I can nominate you for the title, with my glowing recommendation of course.....I don’t see any reason why the committee would deny it if you continue your research, especially with your recent accomplishments.”

“.....Is that true, sir?” Severus asked with a doubtful frown.

“It certainly is, my boy!” Slughorn confirmed with a smile as he clamped a hand down on Severus’s shoulder and exclaimed, “Listen! You think about it for a bit.....Go home and talk it over with Lily, then let me know what you decide!”

“Thank you, sir.” Severus replied with a respectful nod.

The warmth in Slughorn’s eyes made Severus especially glad that he had given his employer an acceptable warning about his upcoming departure.

Potions Master?

Lily’s alpha had to admit, the title carried a pleasant ring.

Later that evening, Severus sat on the sofa next to Lily, holding Harry in his arms while the baby slowly drifted off to sleep after finishing his nighttime meal.

While Severus watched his drowsy pup close his large, green eyes, he spoke to his mate as she buttoned her blouse, “Lily, I need to talk to you about something.”

“What’s the matter, Sev?” Lily asked as she looked up at her alpha worriedly, “You said everything went well today.....”

“No, it did. It went fine.” Severus replied as he straightened his back and earned an irritated whimper from baby Harry, who did not enjoy being jostled, “You might say it went a bit too well, actually.”

“Oh?” Lily asked with a curious frown, “What do you mean?”

“Well, have you thought about what we might do now?” Severus asked his wife.

The pout on his omega's lips made Severus want to levitate Harry into his crib and pounce on her right there on the sofa.

Lovely memories of the previous evening surfaced in Severus's mind and demanded his attention.

Lily drew a breath and her kissable mouth moved while she spoke, "I.....I....No. To be perfectly honest with you, Sev, no, I haven't given it much thought today. I've been too busy daydreaming about how we'll spend our time together and live our lives and.....you know, just be happy, just be us!" Lily exclaimed with a quiet, nervous laugh.

Severus smirked down at Harry when he noticed his son squirm and wrinkle his tiny brow as he scowled in his sleep at the unwelcome noise.

"A pleasant notion, indeed, my love." Severus replied as Harry wriggled back into a position he found comfortable, "I do wonder though, how we might fill our hours once Harry grows?"

"Do you mean like a.....family business?" Lily asked with an excited smile.

Severus blinked, "I.....suppose that's an idea. I was going to mention that Slughorn approached me today with a proposition. If I continue performing private research for him, he'll assist me with becoming a Potions Master. What do you think about that?"

Lily beamed as she kept her smile and enthusiastically answered, "That sounds lovely, Sev! The children and I won't get in the way of your work, don't worry!"

"You could never get in my way, Lily." Severus replied in his low drawl before he frowned and mused out loud, "Children? We only have Harry....."

".....For now." Lily smirked, "Since our finances are no longer an issue, wouldn't it be nice if we had a proper family?"

"Do you mean that you want us to be like the Weasleys?" Severus remarked, "I've heard Molly bears a child for Arthur every few years."

"I can't help that I'd like to carry more of your little ones, Sev. You're my love, you're my husband, you're my alpha. Craving to mother your children is an instinct and I'll not be faulted for it." Lily sniffed with an air of determination.

As he held his sleeping son, Severus fought very hard not to become aroused by the undeniable fact that Lily wanted him, wanted more of him, wanted all of him.....

"You're lucky that I'm busy at the moment, Mrs. Snape." Severus purred as Lily leaned over and gave him a deep kiss, "If my arms were empty, you'd be in them."

The following morning, Severus rose early, kissed Lily goodbye, peeked in at Harry, and then made his way to the castle.

After Severus arrived at Hogwarts, Slughorn promptly sent him to Hogsmeade with a small amount of money and a list of needed potion ingredients.

Severus couldn't help but notice the sign in the window as he entered the village's apothecary.

For Sale

The bells over the door chimed to announce Severus's presence as he stepped into the small shop that smelled of simmering spice and blooming patchouli.

Ring, Ring.

A short while later, Severus stood next to the wooden counter and watched the clerk behind it fill several glass jars full of the items that Slughorn had requested.

While the clerk finished his task, Severus curiously looked around.

Once the clerk sealed the final jar, he totaled Severus's order and looked at him with a nod as he asked, "Will that be all, sir?"

"One more thing....." Severus said slowly, his black eyes melted with intent as he asked in his low drawl, ".....How much?"

"Your total is two sickles, sir." The clerk nodded.

"No, not my order." Severus explained as he narrowed his eyes at the clerk, "I'm asking how much it is to buy the shop?"

Chapter 17 - The Apothecary

Thank you for reading! I don't own any of Harry Potter! Please let me know if you enjoy!
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With Lily's support and permission, Severus accepted Slughorn's offer and purchased what would become the Snapes' family business.

The apothecary cost a little over a tenth of the patent check's amount.

Severus had consulted Lucius Malfoy before he made the final decision to buy the establishment.

Lucius had taken the time to scrutinize the apothecary's profit records during the previous decade, as well as their operating costs.

Only once Lucius's review was complete did he advise Severus that it was wise to buy the business.

At Severus's request, Lucius had also suggested a few investments in the wizarding world that he should consider making with his newfound wealth to insure the growth of his fortune over time.

Severus followed Lucius's guidance, but he was careful to leave a third of his funds in the Snapes' vault at Gringotts, readily available for use.

There were rooms above the apothecary that had been occupied by the previous owners, and it was those same rooms that Severus and Lily moved into on the day that they officially gained ownership of the shop.

That was a busy time for the Snape family.

Lily went upstairs to dust, clean, and unpack by waving her wand around while baby Harry cooed at her from his magical, pop-up play pen.

Severus stayed downstairs to note the inventory he had secured, organize the apothecary, and get things ready to welcome customers the next day at the grand opening.

Severus was pleased with the layout of his and Lily's new store.

There were two large display windows in the front where they could advertise sales and new stocks, plenty of room in the middle of the shop for demonstrations and samples, and a vast number of jars behind the counter where the actual goods and ingredients were kept, that meant that the only people who could access the apothecary's items easily were the ones who tended the register.

Severus shrewdly thought that may help discourage potential shoplifters.

There was even a back area, behind the counter.

Really, it was a little room of its own, a place where Severus could see to his own research and brewing during the slow hours and then in the evenings, he could keep the heady smells of simmering potions away from Harry and Lily.

The walls and floors were dark, but once Severus had the shop prepared that evening, he looked around with a light heart and felt like he was.....satisfied.

As he glanced over at the counter, he envisioned himself and Lily running the apothecary until Harry was grown and they were old and grey.

He imagined Harry taking over one day for them once they could no longer keep up with the demands of the business.

Severus's mind was still having a difficult time wrapping itself around the magnitude of the true promises that their future may hold.....

After Severus had finished arranging the shop itself, he walked upstairs to find Lily and Harry waiting for him in their new kitchen.

The owners' quarters above the apothecary weren't particularly grand or overly spacious, but the area seemed like a small mansion compared to the three room apartment that Severus and Lily had previously shared.

"Hey, Sev." Lily smiled up at her husband while she served dinner, ladling the soup she had made into two bowls.

From his little high chair, Harry looked over at his father curiously.

"Hello, my love." Severus replied quietly as he admired how well put together their new living space already looked, ".....I see that you've stayed as busy as I have today."

"Oh, it wasn't much trouble, really!" Lily laughed, her bright smile staying on her lips as she went on, "Harry was a big help! Weren't you sweetheart?" Lily asked playfully as she reached over and tickled their son's tiny, socked feet.

Harry laughed and giggled at his mother, moving his chubby legs while Severus watched with a look of reverent appreciation.

His omega was a good wife.

His omega was a good mother.

After growing up in a household permeated by abuse and neglect, it was like a drink of fresh, cool water for Severus, knowing that Harry wouldn't have to endure the horrors he had

experienced in his own childhood.

It surprised Lily when Severus swept up behind her, wrapped his arms around her trim waist, and buried his face into the crook of her neck, letting her vibrant, red hair swallow him whole.

“What’s wrong, Sev?” Lily asked with a quiet chuckle as she raised her hand up and gently laid it on what she could reach of her husband’s cheek.

“You’re mine, Lily.” Severus answered in his low rumble of a voice.

The statement was possessive, yet his tone held an alpha’s protectiveness and the loving affection of an enamored husband.

The combination of emotions in the sound made Lily ache down to her core as she turned around to face Severus and smiled, “And you’re mine, Sev.”

Severus put his hand on Lily’s face then.

He looked deep into her green eyes before he pressed a sweet, gentle kiss to her lips, one hand still on her waist as he pulled her close.

Behind them, Harriet squealed and pointed a tiny finger at his kissing parents accusingly, as if they were shamelessly committing some vile offense right in front of him.

Lily smiled at the disapproving scowl she saw on Harry’s little face when she and Severus broke apart.

Severus patted his son’s round head and Lily kissed their baby’s plump cheek before they both sat down at the table and began to discuss their hopes for the next day and the coming years.

While they enjoyed their dinner, Lily mashed up a banana and attempted to feed it to Harry, but that didn’t go as well as she had planned.

Severus watched closely while his son rejected the food and pushed the bowl angrily back towards Lily.

Lily took the bowl and picked up another spoonful of bananas, continuing her attempt to get Harry to sample the fruit.

The unhappy frown on Harry’s face amused Severus.

If it wasn’t Mummy’s milk, then Severus’s pup wasn’t interested.

No matter how hard Lily tried, Harry was determined that he was not eating those bananas.

When the baby’s irritation turned into angry whimpers, Lily gave up and took the fruit away with a sigh.

“Shall I offer them to him?” Severus asked.

“That’s alright, Sev, thanks anyway.” Lily huffed as she stood from her chair and walked over to the sink.

“Are you having trouble nursing?” Severus asked as Lily rinsed the mushy fruit down the drain.

Severus would gladly brew a tonic for his mate to help her milk production.

“No, it’s not that.....I want to start weaning him.” Lily replied over the sound of the running water.

Severus felt an uncomfortable throb of prideful arousal race through his groin.

He knew that Harry was old enough to leave his mother’s breast, but his son’s age had nothing to do with Lily’s motivation, Severus realized that.

An omega’s fertility often decreased while they breastfed, Lily had mentioned that to him a week or so earlier.

It made Severus’s manhood ache to consider how badly his mate wanted another one of his babies.

The following day was the grand opening of the Snapes’ new shop, which they had aptly named, Bezoars and Brewing Apothecary.

Severus and Lily were up at dawn that morning, nervously fluttering around to make a few last minute adjustments while Harry watched from his high chair, which Lily had placed behind the counter while it was still just her and Severus.

Word had spread through Britain’s wizarding society about how Professor Slughorn’s former apprentice had used his talents to invent a life-saving potion and secure himself financially at such a tender age.

The story had piqued the interest of several members of the magical world.

When Severus and Lily opened the door to place the sign out in front of the apothecary that declared it open, they were surprised to see a queue of waiting customers had already formed.

Severus was taken aback but Lily quickly adapted.

She let her bright smile light up her face and her extrovertedness shine as she welcomed their new patrons with a happy declaration, “Come in, everyone! Welcome to Bezoars and Brewing Apothecary!”

Harry blinked over Lily’s shoulder at the influx of people that he watched flood into the shop while his mother carried him back inside and assumed her place next to Severus, behind the

store's counter.

One by one, the purchases started to add up as customer after customer made their selection, Severus packaged their order, and Lily rang them up at the register.

By noon that day, the newly opened business remained quite busy but the pace had slowed to a less frantic level, which gave Lily the time to watch the door.

An hour or so later, three customers stepped inside that made her green eyes widen.

"Sev, look who it is!" Lily called over to her husband excitedly.

Harry giggled as he watched his grandparents walk through the shop and up to the counter.

Eileen Snape smiled at the young couple and her grandson, with Lily's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Evans standing behind her.

Severus stopped restocking the contents of one of the wall shelves' jars and walked towards Lily with an unreadable expression on his face.

"You've all come!" Lily beamed with a pleased smile as she looked at her parents and mother-in-law.

Muggles could visit the village of Hogsmeade, although they usually arrived with the help of a witch or wizard.

"Of course we have, darling!" Lily's mother smiled in return, "Eileen was kind enough to give us an escort here. Don't worry, we won't stay long! We don't have use for much of this, you know, but perhaps you can sell your father and I some rosemary? Even ordinary people like ourselves have a need for that.....Or perhaps some thyme?"

"Oh, oh course, Mummy! Of course! You can stay as long as you like!" Lily exclaimed as she stepped out from behind the counter, hugged her mother and father before she very briefly and formally embraced Eileen.

While Lily chatted excitedly with her parents, Eileen stepped over to speak to Severus, who stared at his mother with a solemn frown, hoping to win her affection, or at least, approval.

"I'm proud of you, son." Eileen said with a sad but genuine smile as she gazed at Severus.

"I have enough money for you to leave him, Mother." Severus whispered to Eileen, ".....I can hide you away where he'll never find you."

"You don't abandon your spouse, dear." Eileen said with a mirthless laugh, "Anyway, that's not your matter to worry over. This day is about you and your wife.....and your entrepreneurial pursuits. I've come to purchase a few bezoars from you, if you have any left. That and some snalafin spice."

As Severus filled his mother's order, he turned his back to her for a moment so she wouldn't see the deep scowl that marred his pale face.

Snalafin spice was commonly used in a specific elixir to heal bruises and minor wounds.

It didn't take a potions prodigy like Severus to know that.

He had seen his mother brew the mixture often enough during his childhood.

Once Eileen's order was complete, Severus handed the bag over to her and frowned again.

"Please consider it, Mother." Severus said, speaking in a voice just above a whisper so only Eileen could hear.

Eileen didn't reply, she just smiled forlornly at Severus and went to pay Lily for the items she had bought.

Later that night, after the apothecary had closed and Lily had finished riding Severus, hoping to milk his loins for another son or daughter, he lay holding his beloved omega close while his mind raced.

His investments would take off, Lucius had assured him.

He'd complete the research for Slughorn and earn himself a title.

The apothecary would be profitable.

That night, Severus dreamed of a place, a much larger place, where he and Lily and all of their children could enjoy their family life together.

Severus dreamed that his mother lived in a house beside them, on their land, free from the prison in which his father kept her.

In his dream, Severus saw Lily, his mother, and himself all laughing happily as his sons and daughters played at Eileen's feet and crawled in her lap.

In his sleep, Severus furrowed his brow and clutched onto Lily a bit more tightly.

Chapter 18 - Severus and the Empty Womb

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Severus's chest heaved with heavy, shuddering gasps.

The whimpers that left Lily's lips were gnawing away the edges of his sanity.

As the dawn rose outside, a husky growl involuntarily left his throat as he drank in the look on his wife's face while he held her hips in his hands and spilled himself inside her.

As Severus endured his own pleasure, he pressed the pad of his thumb against the top of Lily's womanhood and shivered at the thrilling moan he had the joy of hearing once she crashed over her peak.

Lily fluttering around him made the last few seconds of Severus's bliss so exquisitely intense it was almost painful.

With a groan, he regretfully slipped from her body after their coupling was over and pulled her into his arms for a kiss before they rose to start the day.

"Sev....." Lily cooed in a sigh as he laid his forehead against hers, "I'm getting impatient....."

"Perhaps I should start claiming you three times a day, then?" Severus asked in his low, velvety voice as he nipped at Lily's lips, "If two isn't enough? Is that what you want, Lily? Would you like for me to take you in the back room downstairs and bend you over the table?"

Severus was only teasing, but the thought made Lily smirk and giggle as she looked at him with her green eyes shining brightly.

Severus stared at her in adoration for a moment before he pecked her lips once more and regretfully stood from their bed.

As they had with their wealth, the Snapes had made diligent efforts to grow their family.

Lily hadn't yet conceived again, but Bezoars and Brewing Apothecary had been open for a few months and business was going quite well.

Severus and Lily had nearly recouped the investment they had made by purchasing the shop, although it wasn't only the goods their apothecary sold that attracted customers.

Patrons also came to see the owners.

Lily was the greeter, the personality, the small talk enthusiast that could build relationships easily with the apothecary's patrons and provide good customer service whenever a minor

issue was encountered.

Introverted but extremely talented, Severus offered apothecary visitors something just as valuable as a pleasant experience, Severus offered them advice.

Severus Snape was skilled beyond his years at the art of potion-making and as a result, the Snapes' apothecary was quickly becoming one of the most popular in Britain's wizarding world due to the free, helpful instructions that its owner provided to every paying customer.

When Severus saw someone buying ten sprigs of lavender for a healing tonic, he suggested they use eight instead, mentioning to them that by doing so, they could achieve the same effects while reducing the drowsiness that the mixture was known to cause.

When Severus was asked which was better to use, asphodel or dandelion root, he was able to counsel the customer on why the cheaper option was actually the better decision in terms of efficacy.

A more experienced businessman may have looked down on some of Severus's blunt, honest opinions that he shared with his customers, but as people began to try out his tips and learn from the young shop owner, they kept returning to purchase other items out of respect, seeking to support his efforts, and to learn more.

It didn't hurt either that the Snapes offered fair prices on all of their goods.

Between their nearly unbeatable deals, Severus's shrewd ideas, and Lily's engaging attitude, their business flourished.

During slow times, Severus slunk into the back and tinkered around for a bit, working on his latest research assignment for Slughorn or experimenting with his own ideas.

For the past week, Severus had been brewing a new invention, which he hoped for both personal and professional reasons would turn out to be a success.

As he watched the cauldron start to bubble one afternoon, his black eyes shimmered like molten ore as he stared down into the liquid until Lily called to him from the register, "Sev! There's someone here to see you!"

Severus made sure the cauldron was hot enough to maintain its heat without boiling over before he quickly left the back room and went to answer his wife.

Severus was a bit confused when he stepped out and found Lily behind the counter with Harry in her arms and a strange woman in front of her.

The woman was taller than Lily, nearly taller than Severus, with bright, blonde hair and cat-like, hazel eyes.

Her teeth were so straight and blindingly white that they looked unnatural.

Severus didn't notice the woman's clothing but Lily tensely maintained her smile as she tried to quell her irritation at the obscenely tight fit of the woman's robes.

Lily was not fond of the scandalous amount of cleavage exposed by their customer's neckline.

"Oh....." The woman in front of the counter cried with an exaggerated gasp as she laid a hand over her heart, "Are you Severus Snape?!"

"I am." Severus nodded as he glanced questioningly over to Lily.

Lily kept smiling politely.

She knew that her husband was becoming more and more well-known for his talents and that made her proud.

"I've heard so much about you, Mr. Snape~." The woman answered with a smile that was far too sweet to be trustworthy.

As the blonde woman leered at Severus like she wanted to eat him, Lily started to interject, "Really, I can easily help you with what--"

"-Mr. Snape!" The woman cried, cutting Lily off, "I've come here today to ask your advice!"

Lily's smile faded into an annoyed frown.

From his mother's arms, Harry made a soft noise while the woman leaned forward and let her oversized breasts rest on the counter, hoping that Severus would have a look as she spoke, "I've been trying for months now, but I....I just can't get the formula right! Do you think that you can suggest something to help fill an empty womb?!"

The woman was irritated that Severus kept his dark eyes on her face.

The only pair of breasts that he was interested in admiring belonged to Lily.

Despite his noble display of devotion, Lily watched the scene unfolding in front of her with a scowl.

She was not taking well to the idea of a provocatively dressed witch coming in, ignoring her, and throwing herself at Severus while she asked him about "filling an empty womb".

"Have you tried vitex and cinnamon powder?" Severus asked the woman.

"Oh, yes!" The woman answered with a great breath that sent her cleavage bouncing.

"If you have enough chasteberry, you could add that into your tea." Severus blinked.

"Dearie me!" The woman gasped as if Severus's very simple suggestion was a mind-altering revelation, "I haven't thought of that yet! Please, Mr. Snape! May I purchase some? Do you have any in stock?"

“Of course we do.” Lily interjected with a smile as sickeningly sweet as the woman’s whose breasts remained plopped down on the counter.

Severus had to admit, their apothecary hadn’t been open that long, but that was the quickest he had ever seen his wife fill an order.

Lily sat the bag down in front of the woman who continued to ogle Severus while he processed her transaction at the register that was mercifully in between them.

Lily scowled as the woman showed the audacity to lean closer to Severus and whisper while he finished taking her payment, “Perhaps my real problem though, Mr. Snape, is that I only have a beta at home. I’m sure if I had the luxury of a strong, dominant alpha like yourself, my plight would vanish!”

Severus didn’t understand until the woman’s last statement that she was clearly and unashamedly flirting with him, but Lily stepped in before he had a chance to respond.

“Perhaps that may be your real problem.” Lily replied with a dangerously bright smile as she stood shoulder to shoulder next to Severus, clutching her dark-haired son in her arms to remind the woman that she, Mrs. Snape, had already borne Mr. Snape a child, “Ever since we’ve been mated, it’s been my greatest joy to be his and to have him as my alpha. In fact, I don’t know if I’ve ever seen a love as strong and as unshakeable as ours.”

Severus tried not to smirk at Lily’s powerful affirmation of the feelings and bond they shared with each other.

As he completed their wayward customer’s transaction, Severus handed the bag to the blonde woman and she snatched it out of his hands as she straightened her spine, taking her breasts off of the counter while she glared at Lily.

“My, what a darling child you have there.” The woman coldly complimented Lily as her gaze flitted over baby Harry.

Lily tried not to grin in triumph.

As the woman stared at Harry, another customer approached and walked up to Severus in hopes of purchasing some licorice root for his sick son at home.

“However,” the blonde woman said to Lily with another great sigh that managed to lift her weighty breasts once more, “I’m sure that if I had Mr. Snape as my mate, he’d have so many sons that he’d trip over them as he walked. Perhaps you should take your husband’s advice, my dear, and try out some chasteberry. A beta clearly isn’t your problem.”

Lily grit her teeth as the blonde woman cast one more longing glance at Severus and then left the shop, making sure that her round derriere wiggled as she walked out.

It pleased Lily to see that Severus didn’t even notice she was gone.

She wasn’t sure what had angered her more, the way that blonde woman had thrown herself at her husband or the low verbal blow she had struck by mocking her so cruelly.

It shouldn't have bothered Lily for the rest of the day, but it did.

The memory of the woman bothered Lily while she helped Severus clean up for the night after the business day ended.

She felt a surge of possessiveness towards her alpha as she watched his tall, trim figure move around the shop so elegantly.

For Lily, that surge of possessiveness slowly turned into a headache.

The memory of the woman bothered Lily while she, Severus, and Harry shared their evening meal together.

Severus chatted with Lily as she fed Harry a few spoonfuls of porridge.

Her headache had only worsened, but she was glad that Harry was accepting the bits of food that she shoveled into his tiny mouth.

Lily had been slowly working her way towards weaning her son.

Since Harry had discovered there were other tastes available to him, she was making some decent progress.

The blonde woman still bothered Lily that evening while she laid in bed and waited for Severus to come and join her.

She began to sweat as she tossed and turned restlessly in the covers, growing more and more agitated by Severus's prolonged absence.

When she rolled onto her belly and grimaced at the soreness of her breasts, she sat up and raised a hand to touch her cheek.

The unusual amount of warmth under her fingers made her pulse quicken in excitement.

Was it.....was it finally happening?

At last?

Lily slowly rose from the bed.

She swallowed thickly when she noticed how her limbs trembled.

Sweating through her thin nightdress, Lily glanced in the mirror at her reflection as she staggered out of the bedroom.

In the glow of the moonlight, she could see the dark flush of her cheeks and the nearly purple color of her full lips.

Her swollen breasts ached but that was nothing compared to the hurt of her hungry center, the slickness of which she felt wet her panties, eagerly anticipating reuniting with her alpha.

As Lily made her way across the hall and padded down the stairs to find her mate, hope bloomed in her heart.

She hadn't had a heat since Severus had found her in the room of requirement.....which had resulted in Harry.

Lily wondered to herself who this new heat may help usher into their family?

Severus had toiled so hard on assembling a safe and effective fertility potion for his wife that he could hardly bear to keep it a secret from her for much longer.

He wanted to see the mirth in his darling Lily's green eyes when he presented the mixture to her.

As he stood downstairs that night in the back room of the dark, empty apothecary, he smirked down at the rapidly bubbling cauldron and watched the golden sparks fly from the liquid inside.

It was nearly ready.

Severus was hopeful that he may present it to his beloved flower very, very soon.

Although he had only made simple suggestions to the woman earlier, Mr. Snape was certain that he would have just the thing for Mrs. Snape's empty womb~.

Chapter 19 - Lily's Gift

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The scent that hit Severus's nostrils was hypnotic, full-bodied, and fragrant even over the strong aroma of his bubbling cauldron.

That smell!

That wonderful, addictive, intoxicating scent which he had encountered once before, not that terribly long ago.....

As that delicious smell grew stronger, Severus decreased the heat from the flames under the cauldron.

He hastily left the apothecary's back room to follow the direction of that lovely smell, the scent of bliss and innocence rolled into one promising perfume.

Severus stopped abruptly when he walked out and saw Lily standing a short distance in front of the counter.

Lily's vibrant, red hair was visible despite the darkness of the shop, but Severus's eyes were called away from her beautiful tresses by her taut nipples that pressed shamelessly through the fabric of her nightdress in response to the chill of the evening.

Severus lost his words as he noticed the look in his omega's green eyes and realized just how decadent of an evening they were about to experience.

That smell was.....that smell was.....Lily~.

Severus's manhood hardened too quickly as he watched with wide eyes as Lily reached up and pulled the thin straps of her gown aside, rolling them down her soft arms until her breasts were obscenely exposed to his view, then her belly, then the dark nest of curls between her legs.....

He started when his wife's soft nightdress landed on the wooden floor of the apothecary with a barely audible thud.

"Lily," Severus rasped as he stared at his naked mate. His usually smooth, low voice was dry and tight, "Have.....Have you gone into heat?"

Severus watched his wife keep her glowing, green eyes firmly fixed on him as she slowly padded across the floor and walked behind the counter until her hands were lying against his chest as she stood in front of him.

Severus wondered if she could feel the thudding of his heart as she gazed up at him for a suspenseful moment.

When Lily closed her eyes and leaned forward to press a kiss to his lips, Severus found himself rigid with anticipation as he waited for the welcome contact.

When they connected at last, the ferocity of their need thrilled them both.

Severus's arms wrapped around Lily while he staggered backwards under the forcefulness of her kiss, meeting her lips over and over again with his own.

Severus felt his back brush against the wall as he nibbled at Lily's plump cherries until she graciously parted for him and let his tongue delve inside her mouth, eager to explore.

Lily took Severus's hands and moved them over her body, pulling them towards her breasts.

Her frown was heartbreaking when he took his hands away and broke their kiss to look down at her.

"Sev.....I need you....." Lily huffed in irritation as she stood there, submissive and bare, looking up at Severus and waiting for him to take control.

Lily was impatient to give her alpha all of herself, all over again, her heart, her mind, her body, it was all Severus's for the taking.

It vexed her that he hesitated in proceeding with that taking.

"My love," Severus purred, reaching to grasp Lily's hand, "I have a gift for you."

"And I you....." Lily said with a hint of feigned anger in her voice as she gave her alpha a smug smirk, certain that he could see the temptatious flush on her cheeks.

Lily blinked as Severus kept his serious expression and led her into the back room of the apothecary as he answered in a low murmur, "If I indulge in mine first, you won't receive yours tonight. Come....."

Severus brought Lily over to the cauldron and let her stare down at the shimmering liquid inside.

He watched his nude mate pause for a moment to inspect the cauldron's contents and admire the tiny flurries of golden dust that rose from the surface of the liquid it held.

Severus watched a smile break out across Lily's lips and he contented himself with her happiness.

Just a moment more and he could have her, just a moment more.....Severus whispered in his own mind as he ignored his aching manhood that strained against his trousers.

Lily was still looking into the cauldron in fascination as she opened her mouth to speak.

Severus desperately hoped their conversation would be brief.

He had only wanted to show the potion to her while the cauldron was bubbling and offering its brilliant display, that was all.

He had earned Lily's smile and that was enough for the moment.

Severus had.....other matters.....that he wanted to tend.....and he was trying so very hard not to be selfish.

The potion seemed to distract Lily.

"What is this, Sev? Another new one you've made?" She asked her mate with a curious smile, her wonder temporarily diminishing the urgency of her body's demands.

"It's a fertility potion, my love. A special formula, composed of flowers, herbs, and fine metals.....flecks of gold and bits of silver. I wanted its appearance to please you as much as its efficacy." Severus explained as he watched Lily reach towards the ladle that was hung on the side of the cauldron.

His dark eyes widened in horror when she lifted the ladle full of potion and raised it to her lips.

"No! Lily, I haven't tested it yet!" Severus cried as he held a hand up to stop his wife, but he was too late.

With a look of pure satisfaction on her fair face, Lily happily gulped down a ladleful of the fertility potion that Severus had concocted.

"It tastes lovely, Sev. Don't look so grim! I trust you! You hadn't tested your formula for Dragonpox cure either, but that went well, didn't it?" Lily asked with an approving smile as she placed the ladle back into the cauldron and licked her lips.

Nervousness gripped Severus for a brief moment but his black eyes soon glazed over as he watched Lily turn and walk towards the small, wooden table in the room.

Severus's stare was fixed onto Lily's supple bottom cheeks as she moved.

He followed the bounce of her curves while she leapt up and seated herself, bare, on the wooden table where he carried out his research.

The frustrated groan that left Lily's throat sent Severus's racing heart skipping beats as she let her knees spread while she pouted over at him and sighed, "Sev.....I'm in heat.....and now I'm full of fertility potion. Are you going to give me what I need or not?"

Lily watched as Severus kept his gaze firmly fixed on her, but raised the ladle out of the cauldron and took enough of the mixture into his mouth to allow it to coat his tongue before he walked over towards her.

“You didn’t.... let me..... finish, my love~.” Severus purred in a slow, husky growl as he knelt down in front of the table, peering up at Lily from between her parted legs.

Lily blinked down at Severus and the look of trusting innocence on her face made his black eyes glisten as he revealed the truth about his latest invention to his wife, “This particular formula should be most effective with a.....direct.....path to the womb.”

After Severus grasped her creamy thighs in his hands, Lily’s green eyes widened when her alpha deftly pulled her into position so that her most sensitive bits were right in front of his face.

Severus held eye contact with her, watching her closely as he bent forward and began to tease her womanhood with his tongue and nip at that sensitive bundle of nerves situated at its crest.

Severus reveled in the way Lily’s face twisted and contorted with pleasure.

The fertility potion on his tongue sent delightful, tingling ripples ghosting across her aching core, shooting through her body as he sent her flying over peaks of unbridled bliss.

Severus lapped at Lily, the potion mingling with the pleasant taste of her heat, until her cheeks were nearly as red as her hair.

In the sensual glow of the simmering cauldron and the burning candles, Severus tortured his omega with orgasm after orgasm, taking his time in cruelly bringing her pleasure while he filled the cavern that led to her womb with the potion, but purposely left it.....painfully empty.

After an indeterminable amount of time, Lily fell back against the table, the dampness of her skin pressing against the wood with a gentle, sticking noise.

It was only then that Severus finally pulled away.

His black eyes seemed cold as he stood to his feet and stared down at Lily, but his heart was warm and loving.

His poor mate was in heat, but she had been far too demanding, she had overstepped her boundaries.

Severus needed to remind Lily that he was the alpha.

He would care for her.

He would see to her needs.

Lily gasped for breath, her nipples tauntingly erect as her breasts heaved on her chest while it rose and fell.

In the soft light of the apothecary’s back room, Severus let his dark eyes travel over his omega, admiring the paleness of her flesh and the vivid redness of her hair.

Lily's emerald eyes were half-lidded as she watched Severus let a single fingertip trace along the valley between her breasts, all the way down to her navel.

"Severus....." Lily begged, her voice as ragged and desperate as if she were pleading with him for her life, "Please....."

The intensity of her heat, the warmth of the room, the scent of her alpha and that wretched potion, the resounding echoes of the vast amount of pleasure which had sent her spiraling but still left her wanting, it was all overwhelming for Lily.

Severus decided he had tormented his darling wife enough.

At his limit from ignoring his own desire to pound himself into his mate until they were both screaming, Severus went over and pulled the ladle one last time from the cauldron.

Carefully, he poured just a bit of potion out into his hand.

Lily watched from the wooden table as Severus placed that hand over himself and coated his manhood in the shimmery substance.

When Severus stepped back over and pulled Lily towards him, he sunk into her so easily that they both involuntarily grunted at the sensation.

Severus grit his teeth as he proceeded to rut into his omega, nearly dizzy from the tight heat in which he found himself surrounded.

Lily held onto Severus as if they were soaring through the air and letting go meant she would fall, weeping tears of relief at the sensation of finally being filled.

As the night wore on, Severus and Lily stayed on that table, coupling over and over as Lily's heat raged and Severus watched in fascination as he attempted to give his mate another pup.

There was a point towards dawn when Lily's pheromones crescendoed as Severus ground against something wonderful inside her.

Those pheromones nearly drove Severus feral as he breathed in their scent and gnashed his teeth, nipping sharply at Lily's pale throat while he felt her grip on him tighten.

As the edge of engulfing bliss ignited in Severus's brain, unsettled visions danced in his mind while his imagination ran wild.

Severus dreamed of Lily sitting in her nest, too heavy with his children to move, completely dependent on him and him alone.

If Lily wanted another baby, Severus would fill her so full that she struggled to walk~.

Chapter 20 - Three

Thank you for reading! I don't own any of Harry Potter! Please let me know if you enjoy!
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By dawn the next morning, after a long night exposed to the maddening scent of Lily's heat, Severus was in a full rut.

It had been splendid the first time, when he and Lily had both been able to lounge about in the Room of Requirement, kissing, nuzzling, and mating for days on end, uninterrupted and hidden away.

Severus and Lily quickly discovered that heats and ruts had to be experienced differently when the two individuals under their influence were working members of the adult world.

During Lily's second heat, there were no days spent languishing in each other's arms.

Severus and Lily had a child to care for and a business to run.

It was a true talent for Severus and Lily to wear scent blockers during the hours that the apothecary was open and pretend as if they weren't counting the seconds until they could tear each other's clothes off again.

Baby Harry had no idea what was going on between his parents, and as any decent mother and father would, Lily and Severus were careful to look after him as if nothing was out of the ordinary.

Even when Harry started wailing one evening, just after Severus had finally gotten his omega into her nest, Lily smiled sadly at her husband.

Severus frowned deeply at her in a silent response.

With a disappointed sigh, Lily stopped unfastening the buttons of Severus's robes, stood, and went to calm their little one.

Severus followed behind Lily and helped her soothe Harry until he eventually fell back asleep, cuddled into his mother's breasts, the exact spot where Severus had enjoyed the promise of spending his evening.

When Lily glanced up at her husband, he bent down and pressed his lips against hers in an intense, longing gesture of affection.

With his chubby cheek squished against Lily, Harry slept on, blissfully and guiltlessly unaware.

What else did Mummy and Daddy have to do besides look after him?

Although it was much different than her first, Lily's second heat eventually ended.

Once her cycle concluded, Mrs. Snape waited every day for some sort of confirmation that Mr. Snape's potion and their exhaustive efforts at conception had been successful.

A couple of weeks later, Harry's first birthday arrived.

On that Wednesday evening, baby Harry watched from his mother's arms while she and his father cleaned their shop and prepared for his party.

It only took a few flicks of a wand and an enchanted broom to get the apothecary back in order from the aftermath of the busy day, but Lily and Harry stayed with Severus while the spells were cast, as they did every evening after closing.

The Snapes weren't running a family business to be separated.

Once everything was in place and the sweeping broom had begun its work, Severus kept his hand protectively on the small of Lily's back as the three went upstairs and into the kitchen.

The dinner that Lily had in the oven for the evening's guests flooded her and Severus's rooms with the delicious smell of savory warmth.

"Lily?" Severus asked abruptly once they stepped into the kitchen.

His dark eyes watched while his omega sat Harry down in his high chair.

"Yes, sweetheart?" Lily asked after she kissed Harry's tiny head and grinned when her baby cracked a wide smile at her in appreciation.

"I've been thinking....." Severus replied in his slow drawl.

"Oh?" Lily asked, tossing her red hair over her shoulder before she walked over and opened the oven to check on the casserole inside.

Severus let his gaze land on her rounded bottom for a moment as he went on, ".....With the new baby coming, we'll be quite busy."

Lily looked up at Severus with a soft smile before she answered with a hopeful chuckle, "Sev, we don't even know there's going to be a new baby yet."

"With the new baby coming," Severus pressed, ignoring his wife's doubt, "We'll need some assistance, either with the shop or the children."

Lily paused as she thought about her alpha's words.

It was only her and Severus to run the apothecary, which stayed bustlingly busy most days.

It would be difficult to look after a newborn, another baby, and operate the store all at once.

“I suppose you’re right.” Lily nodded, “What do you want to do, Sev? Hire an employee?”

“Perhaps.....someone who can assist where it’s needed.” Severus replied cryptically, slowly working his way up to the idea that he had in mind, fearful that his mate may reject the notion.

“What do you mean?” Lily blinked. She narrowed her eyes at her husband and went on, “Sev, it seems like there’s something you aren’t telling me. Do you already have someone in mind?”

“Yes, actually.....my Mother.” Severus admitted in a tone barely louder than a whisper.

He drew in a tense breath at the look of surprise on Lily’s face.

Harry cooed as Severus opened his mouth to explain, “She’s quite intelligent. She could certainly work the counter in the store and if we needed help with the children, she’d be glad to lend a hand. I was-“

Severus didn’t get to finish his plea before Lily walked up and silenced him with a sweet, loving kiss as she pressed her lips against his while she tenderly took his face into her hands.

Harry whimpered while Severus let his palms rest on his wife’s hips as he enjoyed their kiss and hoped desperately that Lily would be in support of his plan.

Severus had never really told Lily the gritty details about his childhood or the terrors that he and his mother had endured.

Lily thought that Severus was close to Eileen and not to his father, that was all.

When a loud knocking sound came from the apothecary door downstairs, Lily pulled back from Severus with her green eyes shining brightly as she exclaimed, “They’re here!”

Severus let go of his wife with a saddened frown and went to answer the door, but before he disappeared down the staircase, Lily called out to him and asked, “.....Sev?!”

“Yes?” Severus replied without hesitation as he turned and looked at his beautiful mate.

“I think your idea is lovely.” Lily beamed and nodded, “I’d be glad to have your Mum around more.”

As Severus walked down the stairs to greet the party’s guests, his saddened frown disappeared.

Harry’s first birthday party was rather small, but it was an intimate, splendid evening filled with family, laughter, and good food.

Lily’s mother and father were present, along with Severus’s mother.

Lily's sister, Petunia, was conveniently out of town and as a result, had been unable to attend.

Severus's father hadn't even considered the invitation, but he and Petunia were two people that weren't missed that evening.

Severus and Lily had neglected to invite anyone else to Harry's party besides their immediate family, partially due to the limited space of their humble kitchen and dining area.

Lily served dinner and as the family ate their meal together, they chatted about the apothecary, Harry's recent, adorable antics, and the humor of the grandparents' recalled memories from when Severus and Lily were their son's age.

Harry had the privilege of receiving a plethora of gifts including clothes, new toys, and a few interesting-looking books for Severus and Lily to read to him at bedtime.

The baby boy was very happy.

Little Harry gave a bright, loud squeal when Lily presented him with the tiny cupcake that she had baked for his enjoyment.

Severus was right beside his small son as Lily lit a single candle on Harry's cupcake.

Harry stared at his father with his large, green eyes wide from wonder as he watched closely while Severus tried to teach him how to blow out the flame.

Everyone leaned in as they amusedly observed Severus's demonstration and waited for Harry to follow his father's example.

Severus made a blowing motion with his lips.

Harry blinked.

Severus tried once more and turned towards the candle to show Harry what to do.

Harry blinked again.

Quiet giggles and chuckles erupted behind Severus, but everyone gasped when Harry raised his hand and decided he would grasp the candle's light with his chubby fingers.

Before Harry could burn himself, Severus promptly extinguished the candle with the swift rush of a single breath.

Harry gave his father an angry scowl and a cry of consternation while his mother and grandparents roared with laughter.

Everyone watched with a smile, except for Severus who smirked, as Harry tore apart his cupcake, smeared it on himself, across his high chair, and then blinked as if he were very confused.

Lily cleaned her baby with a wave of her wand before she brought out the sheet cake that she had baked for the adults to share.

Severus thoughtfully helped his wife serve the cake onto plates.

Once everyone had a slice, Severus took out the chocolate ice cream that he and Lily had purchased for the evening while the grandparents continued to chat.

Lily happened to love chocolate ice cream, which was why it startled her when the smell of the dessert turned her mouth metallic and sent bile rising in her throat.

Without a word of explanation, she turned and hurried out of the kitchen.

Lily quickly put a hand over her mouth as she raced down the hallway and dashed into the lavatory.

She opened the toilet and groaned as an overwhelming wave of nausea threatened to turn into something more sinister.

Lily drew a deep breath in and slowly exhaled through her nose.

She closed her eyes and tried to focus on the happiness that she realized her sudden and otherwise inexplicable misery must indicate.

Had Severus sensed it?

Had her scent already changed?

When an uneventful moment passed, Lily looked out of the small lavatory window up at the glowing moon in the sky.

Once her startling nausea started to ebb away, she smiled to herself at the opposite nature of her illness.

When she had conceived Harry, the worst of her sickness always struck in the morning.

Lily thoughtfully laid a hand over her flat belly and smiled to herself.

Another minute later, she shakily stood to her feet, closed the toilet, and washed her hands at the sink.

She took another slow breath and splashed a bit of cool water onto her face.

“-Are you alright, dear?” A voice suddenly asked.

Lily started in surprise as she looked over to see Eileen standing in the lavatory doorway.

“Oh!” Lily exclaimed, “Oh, yes! I’m fine, thank you.”

“Forgive me, I didn’t mean to startle you.” Eileen apologized as Lily finished washing her hands, “Your mother and father are holding Harry. Severus didn’t want to seem rude and

leave us all behind, so I volunteered to come and check on you.”

“Thank you.” Lily smiled gratefully at Eileen, “I’m fine, I just felt a bit...unsettled.....for a moment.”

She turned the sink off but Eileen kept her dark eyes fixed on her daughter-in-law while Lily dried her hands.

Eileen quietly remarked, “The scent of chocolate always made me ill when I carried Severus.”

Lily looked up at Eileen with wide eyes.

“It was so sudden!” She laughed as she told her mother-in-law, “I felt perfectly normal.....and then I didn’t! Severus seemed sure of it, but I haven’t been to a midwife yet. Maybe I ate something that disagreed with me and my stomach is reacting?”

“Nonsense, my dear.” Eileen replied as she reached out and grasped Lily’s hand in her own, “I can see in your eyes that you’re-“

When Eileen touched Lily’s hand, she stopped speaking and her mouth fell open as a look of shock shadowed her pale face.

“What is it?” Lily asked, narrowing her eyes in concern at her mother-in-law, “What’s the matter? What’s wrong?”

“Oh my.....” Eileen said as she slowly released Lily’s hand.

Lily frowned as she waited for Eileen to elaborate.

“.....What is it?” Lily asked again with a hesitant frown on her pink lips.

“I knew from the moment that I saw you tonight you were with child, my dear.” Eileen told Lily with an excited grin, “But I didn’t dream you were carrying three!”

Chapter 21 - Pride

Thank you for reading! Please let me know if you enjoy! I don't own any of Harry Potter!
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Lily's emerald eyes nearly popped out of her head.

.....Three?

THREE?!?!

"I-I.....I beg your pardon?" Lily stammered with a nervous laugh.

"There's three lives inside of you, my dear." Eileen nodded confidently, "I can sense them quite clearly."

Her lips smiled but her dark eyes remained sad and serious.

Lily raised her hand and tucked a strand of red hair behind her ear as she shook her head and politely disagreed, "I'm sorry, I don't mean to be rude, but you must be mistaken."

Eileen didn't argue with her daughter-in-law, she merely flashed her a grin of assured knowledge and nodded, "Go and ask your midwife, then, if you don't believe me."

"Oh no, it's not that!" Lily quickly replied, "I wasn't trying to be impolite, it's just.....Severus and I.....we couldn't manage with three at once, well, four, with Harry."

Eileen kept her gentle smile of wisdom that came with years of life experience as she gazed at Lily and answered, "I think you'll find that as time goes by, we all find a way to survive. Isn't that right, Severus?" Eileen asked as she turned her head towards her son.

Severus was coming down the hallway towards the lavatory to investigate the reason behind what was taking his mother and mate such a long time to rejoin the party.

"Isn't what right, Mother?" Severus answered as he walked up.

He frowned when he saw the bewildered expression on Lily's pallid face.

"What's the matter?" Severus asked quickly as he glanced into the bathroom behind Lily with his brow knitted in concern.

Lily's skin turned a sickly, greenish color while Eileen looked at her and silently asked for permission.

When Lily gave the slightest nod, Eileen glanced back over at Severus and announced, "Your wife is expecting again."

Although Severus wasn't one to smile, Eileen saw the look of proud joy subtly spread across her son's face before she smirked and added, ".....What have you done to the poor girl, Severus? This time, she's carrying three."

Severus's black eyes darted over to Lily in disbelief.

The young couple exchanged gazes of pure terror while Eileen reached up and laid a comforting hand on her son's shoulder.

Severus didn't share Lily's delicate condition, but when his mother gave him that news, he nearly turned as green as his pregnant wife.

By the time that Harry's birthday party concluded, its small guest of honor was already sleeping peacefully in his nursery.

Severus saw their guests out while Lily sat in the rocking chair in Harry's darkened room and watched her baby sleep.

Severus hadn't mentioned any particular details to Lily's parents, wanting to confirm the news first.

However, the Evans were aware that their daughter was trying to grow her family and after her sudden trip to the lavatory, they were hopeful that meant that she would soon achieve her dreams.

Lily always had been one to complete her goals.

She chuckled at that thought and raised a hand to her head for a moment when she heard the door close downstairs.

Severus's footsteps were so light that Lily barely noticed him walking up towards their rooms, through the kitchen, and down the hall.....

He appeared in the doorway of Harry's nursery like a silent shadow.

Lily had been nervous about how her alpha may react when they were left alone, after their guests had left, but the loving look in his black eyes as he gazed down at her gave her a refreshing surge of reassurance.

"Hey, Sev." Lily whispered.

"Hello, my love." Severus replied quietly.

Without another word, Severus glided over and gave Lily his hand to chivalrously help her to her feet.

Together, they left the nursery and padded to their bedroom so that they could speak without waking Harry.

As they walked down the silent, dark hallway, Lily squeezed Severus's hand and he returned the pressure in a silent gesture of acknowledgement.

Once they made it to their room, Severus closed the door while Lily sat down on the nest that was still on top of their bed.

In the darkness, Lily whispered out to her husband pleadingly, "Sev, please don't be angry....."

Severus turned towards Lily and she frowned at the way his dark eyes stared at her from across the room.

His expression was stoically unreadable while the moonlight streamed in over a panel on the wall and a few of the floorboards.

Severus stalked towards her like a panther.

When he came close enough that Lily could smell his comforting scent, punctuated by notes of warmed leather, lavender, and sage, she closed her eyes and waited.

Severus sighed quietly while he bent down and kissed his mate as she sat in her nest, eager to taste the plumpness of her lips as if by doing so he was taking a drink from a healing stream.

"How could I ever be angry at you, my love?" Severus asked in a breathless whisper as he broke their kiss.

Severus purposely stayed close enough to Lily so that as he spoke, his lips brushed over hers, teasing his omega with the possibility of reigniting their passion.

Lily giggled and moved back a bit more to look into Severus's eyes as she smiled and replied, "I think your potion was a success, Sev."

Severus held Lily's stare for a moment, reluctant to look away from the bright, happy light that he saw in her face, but once the pause became uncomfortably long, he resigned himself to his fate and sat down beside her.

"We can't be sure the potion had anything to do with it. We can't be sure of anything yet.....before we open the apothecary tomorrow, we're taking you straight to the midwife." Severus replied in a purr as he snaked his arm around Lily.

It made Severus feel content when Lily laid her hand on his thigh and her head on his shoulder.

Severus reached over and pressed a kiss to the top of his beloved's crimson hair.

He held her close for a while before he coaxed her into lying down for the night.

Both of them were too preoccupied with wondering if what his mother had said was true or not to have any in-depth conversations, but Severus wanted his mate to know that she had his unconditional love and support, whatever and whoever may come.

After a couple tranquil moments of lying on Severus's chest and listening to the steady beating of her alpha's heart, Lily was snoozing quietly with her eyes closed in a peaceful sleep.

Severus looked down and felt relief flood his system when he saw that Lily had drifted off.

She needed extra slumber if she was carrying one life, let alone three.

Severus remained awake for several hours as he stared up at the ceiling and thought.

Inside, Severus felt a torrent of emotions; fear, anxiety, pride, happiness, excitement.

What kept him awake though was the question that his omega had asked him.

Did Lily honestly think that he could ever be truly angry with her, especially for bearing him more pups?

Severus contacted the midwife at sunrise.

The healthcare worker's office wasn't open yet, but Severus felt like his matter was pressing enough to warrant alerting her beforehand, not to mention that the midwife's hours conflicted with the apothecary's and Severus certainly wanted to be with Lily during her exam.

The midwife was the same one that Lily had seen during her previous pregnancy, and although the woman had missed out on the excitement of delivering her patient's firstborn child, she readily agreed to care for Lily again.

Severus had expected to take his omega and meet the midwife at her office.

He was pleasantly surprised when the healthcare worker apparated directly into their kitchen.

Lily barely had her eyes open when she heard Severus and the midwife step inside her bedroom.

The midwife was kind and gentle as she greeted her groggy patient, unpacked her bags, and prepared to run her tests.

Severus sat on the side of the bed and gently took Lily's hand to try and quell her anxiety as she roused more fully.

He knew there was little chance of that actually happening.

Severus was so nervous, it was all he could do to contain his own apprehension.

The midwife helped Lily get comfortable on the bed before she pulled the sheets down and raised her patient's nightdress to expose her flat abdomen.

Severus protectively moved in closer to Lily while the midwife placed her wand just below his wife's navel and murmured quietly.

"It doesn't hurt, Sev." Lily smiled over at him reassuringly, "Don't worry."

Severus glanced at Lily before he turned back to watch the midwife closely.

He noticed the way the woman furrowed her brow in concentration as a gentle light emitted from her wand's tip and spanned across her patient's torso until she finished her silent incantation.

The midwife was quiet for a moment and Lily squeezed Severus's hand in the tense silence that followed.

Slowly, the light across Lily's abdomen rescinded and returned back to where it had originated from by retreating into the tip of the midwife's wand.

Lily felt her heart tense as the midwife looked up at the young couple with a curious smile on her face as she nodded, "Yes, Mr. and Mrs. Snape, your suspicions were correct! Mrs. Snape is indeed with child again."

Lily breathed a happy, gasping sigh as she and Severus looked at each other for a moment before Severus scowled over and asked the midwife, "How many?"

"How many?" The midwife echoed with a sly smile, "Has someone told you this is a multiple pregnancy?"

"My mother, last night," Severus replied with a nod, "She said that she knew my wife was carrying triplets. We had no idea.....Her scent hasn't even changed yet."

"Well, your mother is a very wise woman, Mr. Snape." The midwife said with a smile, "She was correct in her prediction. Yes, you have three little ones on the way. My! Aren't you two going to be busy?!"

Lily squeezed Severus's hand as tightly as if she were in labor when she heard the midwife confirm what they had spent the previous night contemplating.

Severus turned towards Lily and looked into her eyes with a gentle glance of loving tenderness before the midwife started to speak again, "Mrs. Snape, I'll need to see you at least every two weeks. I'll leave some literature with you both today, but I'm warning you now, there'll most likely be a point where you'll have to stay exclusively in your nest, so you and your alpha may want to start thinking about--"

While the midwife counseled them, Severus sat with an unreadable look on his face as half of his mind mentally recorded every word she said and the other half drifted into his own thoughts.

Severus was as swollen with pride as Lily soon would be with his children.

He relished the happy smile on his omega's face and the look of thrilled excitement in her eyes.

It made Severus straighten his shoulders when he thought of the smirk that would be on his face while he watched Lily waddle around the apothecary, adorable and plump as she prepared to give life to his pups.

Severus dreamed of all of the family moments the Snapes would share and how he and Lily would lead a grand life in their golden years, perhaps filled with grandchildren or at least visits from Harry and the triplets.

After the midwife left, Lily started to cry, happy tears of frightful delight as Severus pulled her close and gave her a deep kiss.

It was his great pleasure to see to his mate's comfort.

As Lily embraced Severus, she was utterly satisfied.

With her alpha kissing her, their son waking up down the hallway to spend the day with them, and Severus's next little ones growing in her belly, there weren't many omegas who were as fulfilled as Lily Snape.

Chapter 22 - An Exceptional Dream

Thank you for reading! Please let me know if you enjoy! I don't own any of Harry Potter!
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Severus narrowed his eyes while he watched his wife work in the apothecary that afternoon.

Despite the shocking news the midwife had confirmed to the couple, Lily hid her surprise well as she waited on each customer with a bright smile.

Oppositely, Severus wore a frown, not of displeasure, but of concern.

When he wasn't busy helping someone make a selection or filling jars, he was worriedly looking over at Lily.

Three.

She was carrying three.

Severus felt pride swell in his chest.

He couldn't deny that his alpha instincts made him want to smirk smugly when he considered the details of his wife's condition, but the rational part of his mind couldn't stop pondering their changed situation.

It wasn't going to be possible for Lily to help him run the business on a day-to-day basis with three newborns and an energetic toddler.

Severus glanced down at his mate's flat abdomen and contemplated how long it would be until Lily lost the ability to stand on her feet for extended hours.

He felt a rush of protectiveness crash over him as he watched Lily hold Harry in one arm and absent-mindedly press a hand to her belly.

Severus understood that his omega would most likely end up spending the better portion of her pregnancy in her nest with Harry.

Good.

He preferred it that way.

At least if Lily and Harry stayed in her nest, Severus would know that his mate and little ones were all safe.

While he had the opportunity, he walked over to his flower and purred in her ear as he stood close behind her.

“Are you feeling alright, my love?” He asked in a voice barely above a whisper.

“I’m doing fine right now, Sev.” Lily said as she turned and glanced up at her mate with a reassuring smile.

The frown of concern on Severus’s face softened Lily’s heart and she giggled as she stood on her toes to kiss him.

Severus warmly returned his wife’s peck while no one was looking, but the worry remained in his dark eyes as he spoke, “Do you need to go and lie down? Are you thirsty? Are you nauseous? I can give you some-“

“I’m fine, Sev!” Lily nodded insistently. She kept her smile as she added, “I’m really doing quite well today.”

When Harry cooed, Severus’s black gaze flickered over to his son as he pressed, “You really shouldn’t be holding him too often. Lily, I can take him, give him to me.”

“Sev, Harry’s no trouble for me.....Look, he’s comfortable where he’s at right now.” Lily informed her alpha as she kissed Harry’s chubby little cheek.

Severus watched his baby squeal happily while Lily added, “The midwife said that I could carry him without any issues, for now, anyway.”

She chuckled when she saw that her husband continued to wear a grimace of deep concern.

Lily used her free hand to cup Severus’s face as she looked into his eyes and smiled brightly while she asked, “Sev.....you have to relax, alright?”

Before Severus could respond, Lily’s hand slipped off of his face as she turned and stepped over to assist a customer who walked up to the nearby counter.

Severus’s dark eyes glimmered like melted obsidian as he watched his darling wife effortlessly continue on with her day.

Severus wasn’t trying to annoy Lily by observing her, but the primal urge that he felt to protect his little family was impossible to ignore.

It amused Lily that no matter how cheery her smile was or how calm she seemed, Severus never dropped his guard.

A week or so after the midwife’s visit, Severus began to smell it, that thick, sweet scent that Lily had given off before Harry’s birth.

That scent made Severus struggle not to go feral and wrap his wife in his shielding embrace.

During the days that followed, there were times when Severus regretted opening the apothecary and accepting his position to perform research for Slughorn.

Why had he done that?

The Snapes' concern about money had been eliminated.

Severus surmised that instead of continuing his work, he should have just built a large house, kept Lily in his bed, and bred her like she wanted.

He could have spent his days lying in his mate's nest with his hands on her heavy belly while he kissed and cuddled her until she was dizzy.

Severus wondered if that wasn't the eventual outcome?

Lily had a few, brief instances where fleeting nausea would plague her, but Severus rid her of her discomfort quickly with a simple dose of settling potion.

He saw to her nutrition, he followed the midwife's instructions, and he ensured that she received adequate rest each night.

By the time Lily completed her first trimester, Severus was pleased to see that the changes in her body had already become noticeable.

His three growing pups had curved his omega's belly and swelled her breasts.

Severus felt fortunate that he got to witness the wonder and surprise on Lily's fair face when she glanced down and first noticed her tiny, but present, tummy one morning while she dressed in front of the mirror that hung in their bedroom.

He watched in awe as his wife gently laid a hand over her belly.

Lily felt Severus's dark gaze boring into her and she glanced up at him with a smile.

A soft blush covered her cheeks as she silently gave her alpha the permission he respectfully waited on.

Severus's brow furrowed and his mouth fell open slightly as he strode towards her.

Lily wasn't expecting the great flourish from his black robes that billowed out as he dropped down onto his knees and placed his hands on the small swell of her womb.

She smiled down at Severus and allowed her fingers to rove lovingly through his black hair while she let him take a moment to greet his youngest children.

Severus handled Lily as delicately as if she were made of glass.

After a pause of careful inspection, he tenderly pressed his ear against her belly and listened to the flurry of pulses that sounded from within.

"I love you." Lily whispered to him softly as her nails continued to rake through his hair.

Severus kept one hand splayed over her small belly and in reply, he turned and let his lips press against the clothed mound.

Lily watched as her mate stood to his feet in one effortless motion.

The next thing she realized was the affectionate way his hands cradled her hips while his lips melted against hers.

“.....Sev?” Lily asked through their breathless kiss.

“Yes~?” Severus answered in a low, rumbling purr that exuded from his throat in a tone that was far more husky than he had intended.

The thought of Lily bearing his children excited Severus, but the thought of Lily kissing him, eager to mother his little ones thrilled Severus even more.

“Take me to bed.....” Lily sighed as she brought her arms up to drape around Severus’s neck.

His black eyes widened for a moment.

He contemplated whether or not he should grant his omega’s wish.

He and Lily hadn’t been intimate since the midwife confirmed the pregnancy.

Lily had been more than willing, but Severus had been overly cautious.

He had no interest in risking the precious cargo inside of her, although he laid awake often and lamented the loss of his darling’s sweet touch.

“It’s safe.” Lily whispered seductively as she looked into her husband’s dark eyes and begged, “Please, Sev.....I need you~.”

Lily had passed the most dangerous time for a miscarriage, they both knew that.

Severus wanted to uphold his stoic decision to maintain abstinence, but Lily’s tempting confession of need sent a shiver down his back as she teasingly licked his bottom lip.

After three long months of self-denial, Severus’s resolution broke.

He gently scooped Lily up and let her wrap her legs around his waist as he carried her over and tenderly sat her down on the bed.

After Severus quickly disrobed them both, Lily eagerly pulled him closer.

The many blankets and pillows of Mrs. Snape’s cozy nest were almost as warm and soft as her body’s creamy curves, which Mr. Snape happily spent the next hour exploring before their apothecary downstairs opened for the day.....

As it had in the months before Harry's arrival, Lily's belly made her pregnancy seem so much more...tangible.

After their morning love-making, Severus left Lily to nap in her nest while he ran the shop for the first portion of the day on his own.

It was a busy Thursday and it gave Severus a glimpse into the future.

He soon discovered that yes, there would need to be at least one employee hired, if not two.

After the shop closed later that evening, Lily stood in the kitchen and prepared dinner with a few waves of her wand while Harry giggled in delight from his high chair.

Downstairs, Severus finished cleaning the apothecary for the night and apparated away.

He would return before his wife noticed he was gone, but first, he had research to do.

The apothecary's profits were soaring and as a result, the Snape family's wealth increased by the day.

Seconds later, Severus arrived with a loud pop outside of one of the older shops in Hogsmeade.

While he stood there in the street, he frowned as he looked up at the wooden sign.

Quininns Co. Builders - Exceptional Architecture for the Exceptional Wizard

As the last rays of the setting sun beamed down, Severus took a deep breath in as he ascended the narrow, stone steps and entered the shop.

The bell over the antique door chimed as he walked inside.

Ring, ring.

To Severus's dismay, the shop was mostly empty that late in the evening.

Before he had a chance to inspect the blueprints and photographs that hung on the wall in attractive frames, two elderly men in striking, dark suits moved forward to greet him.

One man wore a welcoming smile.

The other man wore a distrustful frown, but the smiling man greeted Severus cordially as he asked, "Good evening, sir! Is there something we can help you with today?"

"I have a simple inquiry." Severus nodded to the two older men in front of him, "Is it true that your business continues to offer custom building services?"

Lucius Malfoy had spoken highly of Quininns Co. Builders several times in Severus's presence.

“How do you think we’re still in business, boy?!” The other man snapped as his frown turned into a scowl, but the smiling man cleared his throat.

The smiling man’s eyes were bright and kind as he looked at Severus and politely informed him, “It is true indeed that we offer custom building services, sir! My name is Wilfred Quininns and this is my brother, Archibald Quininns.” He nodded as he gestured to himself, then to his scowling sibling.

“My name is Severus Snape.” Severus replied with a frown.

The Quininns brothers’ eyes lit up when Severus introduced himself.

Severus Snape’s name and wealth had become a well-known fact in the wizarding world.

Wilfred hastily spoke again, “Please, Mr. Snape, if you tell us more about what you’re interested in, we can build any home, any business, any place at all really, to the exact desires of your heart. Sit with us, won’t you?” Wilfred invited his potential customer as he gestured to a nearby table with a wide grin, “It’ll only take a moment.”

Severus looked at the two men warily before he walked over to the wide table.

Archibald sat down with a scowl, but Wilfred smiled as he took out a special blue quill and unrolled a blank piece of parchment while Severus sat down in a chair across from the two brothers.

Severus had considered buying the apothecary to be a wise use of his family’s funds.

Now, as he sat in front of the two builders, he found himself confronted with another commendable purchase.

With three more little ones on the way, it was hard to argue that Severus and Lily’s sparse, simple rooms above their shop would remain suitable.

Severus needed proper housing for his mate and pups.

Severus needed to build the Snape family’s home.

Chapter 23 - Surprise Me

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“.....And we can add engraving to the stair railings that lead to the third floor as well, Mr. Snape.....if you'd prefer, of course.” Wilfred Quinins said with a hopeful grin as he looked at his potential new customer.

Severus's black eyes glinted as he stared down at the elaborate blueprint that had been drawn on the parchment.

He had been pleasantly shocked by how fast the service had been at Quinins Co. Builders.

In the short span of fifteen minutes, Wilfred and Archibald Quinins had managed to draw up plans for a house that was a hundred times grander than one Severus had ever envisioned himself inhabiting.

He blinked at the design on the parchment and shook his head after a moment.

It wasn't necessary to hash out all of the fine details yet.

“Perhaps.....” Severus dismissively replied to the two men as he narrowed his dark eyes and looked up at them both, “This evening I've only come to learn what's possible. I need to speak with my wife before I go any further.”

“Of course, Mr. Snape. Of course!” Wilfred agreed with a friendly nod, but Archibald scowled at Severus distrustfully.

As Severus stood to leave, he was taken by surprise when Wilfred lifted the blueprint of the incredible home off of the table and held it out towards him in an offering gesture.

Severus glanced at the parchment, then up at Wilfred with an incredulous scowl.

“Please, Mr. Snape.....” Wilfred graciously pleaded, “Take this with you and show it to your wife. Give her an idea of how we can make her dreams a reality here at Quinins Co. Builders. Don't worry, all consultations are free of charge!”

Severus frowned as he hesitantly reached out and accepted the blueprints from Wilfred.

He held the parchment in his hand as he nodded at the two men behind the table before he turned on his heel and left the shop.

The bell over the antique door chimed again to announce his departure.

Ring, ring.

Severus pondered Wilfred's words while he hurried across Hogsmeade, back to the apothecary in which his little family lived and worked.

Wilfred Quinins was a better salesman than Severus had originally anticipated.

There was something wonderful about that one phrase he had spoken.....

We can make her dreams a reality.

Severus was in full support of doing just that for his darling Lily.

When Severus silently entered his empty apothecary, he was immediately greeted by the delicious scent of the dinner that awaited him as the savory aroma wafted out of the kitchen and down the stairs.

His empty stomach rumbled as he swept across the dark shop, glided up the stairs, and walked towards the kitchen.

Severus drew in a breath of contentment as he listened to the sounds of Lily bustling around and Harry babbling.

"Hey, Sev!" Lily greeted her alpha with a warm smile when she saw him step into the room.

"Lily...." Severus answered his wife as he gazed at her with a look of awed reverence.

Harry laughed and reached out towards his father while Lily put the finishing touches on the meal that she had prepared.

Severus moved over and let his little pup clutch onto him with a happy giggle for a moment before he stepped away from Harry and walked over to help his omega.

"I'm alright, Sev!" Lily assured her husband with a bright smile as she waved her wand and used a simple bit of magic to move the plates and napkins over onto the table.

"You need to sit down and get off of your feet." Severus thoughtfully decided as he took Lily's hand in his.

Lily chuckled softly as Severus gently pulled her towards the table and helped her into her seat while he assumed the task of serving dinner.

"I'm not injured, Sev." She reminded him with another smile while Severus filled their plates full of food, "You don't have to fuss over me so."

"You're carrying three lives inside of you, Lily." Severus frowned in concern.

Lily's green eyes widened as he piled her plate alarmingly high, intent on adequately feeding his unborn sons or daughters.

Severus joined her a moment later as he sat down across from her.

He thoughtfully complimented Lily's cooking while they ate, chatted, and took turns feeding Harry.

When a pause entered their conversation, Severus's dark eyes flickered down to the small roundness of his wife's belly as he spoke, "You need to start resting more during the day. The midwife said to lie down when you feel fatigued."

"Maybe it's the potions that you've given me, but I really haven't felt all that fatigued yet, Sev." Lily shrugged as she finished what she could of her vast meal.

"...That time will come soon." Severus added in a grave tone as he stared at his wife across the table.

"You don't have to look so upset! You should be happy! What's the matter?" Lily asked with a gentle smile, amused by her husband's thoughtfulness.

"I am happy." Severus retorted with a frown, ".....But Lily, we've got to think about what we're going to do.....Hasn't the issue crossed your mind at all?"

"What do you mean, Sev?" She asked with a frown as Harry kicked his little legs in his high chair.

"You won't be able to work until your birthing day like you did with Harry." Severus assessed.

He was certainly glad of that.

That moment in Slughorn's class when Lily's waters had broken had been one of the most terrifying that Severus had ever lived through.

"Well.....no, of course not, but maybe we can have your Mum come and help out around the shop?" Lily asked as she frowned at Severus.

"Perhaps....." Severus replied.

His dark eyes shimmered as he watched his beautiful mate.

Although Severus felt relief that Lily understood what he alluded to, he had envisioned another, more appropriate position for his mother.

After dinner, the Snapes read to Harry by the small fireplace in their living room until their little boy fell peacefully asleep on his father's chest.

Lily smiled as she gently rubbed Harry's plump cheek that was squished against the dark fabric of Severus's robes as her husband deftly laid the book in his hands down and slowly rose to his feet without waking his tiny son.

Lily followed Severus and padded down the short hallway that led from the main living area to Harry's nursery.

She peered over Severus's shoulder while he gently laid their baby down on the soft mattress of his crib.

Lily slipped her hand into Severus's and together, they left Harry's room.

Excited about the cosiness that the evening would surely bring, Lily looked forward to cuddling with Severus in her nest.

Severus looked forward to showing Lily the incredible blueprints on the parchment that lay discreetly tucked away inside of his pocket.

Although Lily had said that her energy levels hadn't waned, she yawned as soon as she and Severus entered their bedroom.

Instead of changing into his nightclothes, Severus sat on the edge of Lily's nest and watched his wife undress.

Lily glanced over at Severus with a smirk.

She expected to find that look of restrained arousal on his face that she recognized so well.

It made her blush when she saw Severus staring at her with grateful admiration instead.

As Lily stood naked in front of her husband, bearing her belly, her breasts, and her bottom, Severus's dark eyes flickered over her form and lingered on the teasing sight of her red hair falling gently over her pale shoulder.

"Sev, I can see that there's something important on your mind." Lily declared as she reached for her nightdress.

Severus wasn't explicitly thinking about coupling with his wife at that moment, but that didn't stop him from noticing the way her darkened nipples tightened in the chill of the evening air.

He was silent as Lily walked over and stood in front of him.

She looked down at her lover as she tenderly combed her fingers through his raven-black hair.

Severus was extremely fond of having his omega's hands in his hair and Lily was quite aware of that.

He sighed quietly before he turned his head, caught her hand, and pressed a gentle kiss to her palm.

Severus stared up at his wife with his black eyes soft and loving as he whispered, “I want to give you everything, Lily.”

Lily chuckled quietly at her husband’s kind generosity.

She smiled as she looked down at Severus and replied, “You’ve already given me everything, Sev. Your love, your life, our shop, our children.....”

“But I want to give you more.....” Severus pressed. Lily blinked as he carefully put his hands on her tummy and went on, “We’re going to need extra room.”

Lily’s smile started to disappear as she repeated, “.....Extra room?”

“There’s only one other bedroom besides Harry’s.” Severus quipped, “Where do you intend to let the triplets sleep?”

“Well....could they share a room for the first couple of years?” Lily frowned.

Severus bent forward and pressed a featherlight kiss to Lily’s belly before he murmured against her womb, “We don’t have to live that way, my love, and we aren’t going to live that way.”

“What about the shop?” Lily asked.

“What about the shop?” Severus echoed, “I’ll visit to check on the operation of our business, obviously, but I want to be with you and the children. I can do my research wherever we are, that’s no matter. We need to hire a team who can work the apothecary in our absence, at least while our little ones are little. Once the children are in school, or old enough, we can return if you like.”

Lily blinked at Severus for a moment as he added, “We also need a larger home, Lily, a real home.....not a flat, not rooms over a shop.....A family home where we can raise our pups together.”

Lily stopped stroking Severus’s hair.

He saw the spark of excitement that lit up her emerald eyes as a bright grin broke out across her lips.

Her expression made Severus hopeful.

Lily looked intrigued by her alpha’s assertion as she opened her mouth and asked, “Where shall we go then, Sev?”

Severus held his darling’s gaze as he reached towards his pocket and began, “I actually inquired about that earlier this evening. In the village, there’s a custom builder who can-“

“-Don’t tell me!” Lily cut in with a wide, exhilarated smile as she held up a hand to silence her mate.

Severus scowled at her until she looked at him, laid a hand on her belly, and explained, “You trust me to give you three new pups even though you don’t know anything else about them, right?”

Severus’s breath hitched as Lily leaned down and kissed his lips in a slow, decadent, dizzying manner.

He whispered against her in his signature drawl, “.....I suppose.....”

“Then I trust you too, Sev.” Lily whispered in reply as she crawled onto his lap and gently pushed him backwards until they were lying together in her nest, “.....I want you to surprise me with our family home.”

As Lily straddled him, Severus’s black eyes widened when his manhood violently responded to the feeling of her settling herself over his groin.

Desire clouded his mind as he revealed, “I’ve asked for plans and I-“

“Ssssh.” Lily whispered as she laid a finger to Severus’s lips and stared down at him with that same, happy smile.

Severus watched as Lily slowly, deliberately began to unfasten the buttons on his black robes.

She exposed the base of his throat first, then his chest, all the way down to the fine line of black hair underneath his navel that trailed enticingly towards one of her favorite parts of her lover.

Severus sucked in a breath as Lily bent forward and began to press warm, wet kisses onto his skin.

She started with his throat and moved down, down, down towards his.....

Severus’s heart was racing by the time Lily unfastened his trousers.

The giggle that left her throat when his manhood sprang free made him want to growl in response.

Through the curtain of fiery, red hair that framed her fair face, Lily smirked up at her alpha as she urged him again, “Surprise me, Sev~. I trust you.”

Severus briefly thought about those engraved stair railings that Wilfred had offered him until Lily’s lips parted and covered what they could of his manhood.

A guttural groan left Severus’s throat at the delightful suction that he found himself trapped within and suddenly, as his fingers knotted in Lily’s thick, red hair, those stair railings were the farthest thing from his mind.....

Chapter 24 - Progress

Thank you for reading! Please let me know if you enjoy! I don't own any of Harry Potter!
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After his blissful night with Lily, Severus rose the next morning and went straight to Quininn's Co. Builders while his omega continued to sleep peacefully.

Severus had barely gotten any rest at all, but he felt strangely invigorated.

He was profoundly excited about all of the possible features that he may be able to incorporate into the house that he planned to have built.

Severus was constantly looking for ways to make Lily happier and commissioning a dream home for his beloved flower seemed like a good idea.

Still, he maintained his use of common sense.

Dreams carried price tags, dream homes were no exception.

Severus kept in mind the current balance of the Snapes' vault at Gringotts, along with the profit that the apothecary had averaged during a month, a quarter, and almost a year so that he wouldn't overspend.

He felt that he was prepared to begin his negotiations as he stood outside Quininn's Co.'s establishment that morning.

A short while later, Wilfred Quininn's, whom Severus had spoken with the previous evening, opened the wooden door to the shop and greeted his potential client with a fond smile, "Mr. Snape! You've come back to see us already!"

"I have." Severus replied with a stoic nod.

"Did you and your wife have a chance to talk about the blueprints?" Wilfred asked hopefully.

Severus could feel Archibald Quininn's scowling at him from the window, but he paid him no mind as he nodded at Wilfred and replied, "In a way.....I've come to ask more questions."

"Well, certainly, sir!" Wilfred laughed in a friendly manner, "Please, come inside and chat with us, Mr. Snape!"

Wilfred stepped to the side of the opened door and welcomed Severus into the shop after he climbed the narrow steps.

Once Severus glided through the doorway, Wilfred gestured for his new customer to sit down again at that same table.

Archibald Quinins kept scowling at Severus from the same seat that he had occupied the previous evening, but Wilfred ignored his brother as he took the blueprints that Severus removed from his pocket and handed over.

“How can we help you, sir? Anything that you want, we can build it!” Wilfred nodded enthusiastically.

“.....How quickly?” Severus asked.

“I.....I beg your pardon, Mr. Snape?” Wilfred blinked.

“How quickly can you build a home for my family?” Severus repeated, “My wife is with child.....Children, really, she’s carrying triplets.....We haven’t got more than a few months before they arrive and there is nowhere for them to sleep in our current living quarters.....It is of the utmost importance that a new residence be built and habitable before their birth.”

“Triplets! Congratulations, Mr. Snape!” Wilfred beamed.

Archibald’s scowl deepened.

When Wilfred’s congratulatory statement was answered by Severus with a curt nod and a serious frown, he resumed their business discussion.

“As I said, sir.....” Wilfred told Severus with a confident grin as he waved a hand over the blueprints, “We can build anything that you want and we are happy to cater to your needs, not our own. Give us a date that you need your new home completed by! If you sign a contract today, we’ll promise to refund every Knut of your dream dwelling if it’s not finished by your requested date, but I assure you, Mr. Snape, that won’t happen!”

Severus left Quinins Co. Builders just in time to make it back to the apothecary before his own place of business opened for the day.

Lily’s alpha had a new sense of self-assured confidence in his walk that morning as he contemplated matters.

Severus Snape had invented a life-saving potion and several other concoctions, amassed a large fortune, purchased and operated his own business, contracted a house to be built, married, and fathered four children before the age of twenty-one.

When Severus arrived back at the apothecary, the first thing that he was greeted by was Lily’s loving smile.

Despite his other admirable achievements, to Severus Snape, his greatest accomplishment had been and always would be the honor of having Lily as his wife.

Mrs. Snape didn’t ask Mr. Snape any questions when he told her that he had moved forward in the process of securing a family home for them.

Severus noticed the excitement that built in Lily's green eyes with each passing day as she looked forward to seeing what he had arranged.

Unfortunately, he also noticed the fatigue from the toll that her pregnancy began to exert as well.

It was much different carrying three babies than one.

Lily's boastfulness about her remaining energy levels quickly quieted as Severus's children grew inside her.

Her belly rounded to such a size that Severus kept one hand on his wife's back and one arm around her shoulders whenever he could in an effort to support her.

Lily took her condition in stride and tried not to complain, but Severus knew that his mate was struggling when she started leaving him to run the apothecary for several hours each day while she lay in her nest with little Harry.

The triplets' birth was quickly approaching.

Severus began to feel the primal, protective urge to be next to his expectant mate at all hours of the day and night.

That was when he started seeking workers.

Severus placed a sign in the apothecary's front window that clearly read:

Help Wanted, Inquire Within

He was surprised by the number of witches and wizards that walked into his shop and asked for a job.

Severus didn't know much about hiring employees.

As a precautionary measure, Severus secretly performed a silent version of Legilimency on each person that he interviewed to discover their true motives behind seeking a job in his store.

Severus wasn't in the habit of reading other's minds at will, but he saw it as a necessary evil to protect his business and his family.

He found that one witch he interviewed had been thinking of all of the things that she could steal once she started working in the apothecary.

Severus struggled not to narrow his eyes when he caught her wondering about the amount of ingredients that she could fit under her robes each day after her shift ended.

To Severus's horror, one wizard that came for an interview had harbored such disturbingly violent fantasies about Lily that Severus had obliterated him on his way out.

Severus's grip on his wand had been so forceful that his knuckles went white as he wiped all memory of his beloved mate from the man's mind, appalled by the mental images that he had the great displeasure of viewing.

Severus had held Lily tightly to his chest that night while they slept.

A young witch and young wizard who applied at the apothecary had such vapid thoughts that Severus could barely understand them at all.

He declined to offer the young witch and wizard positions in his store, hoping to find workers who would be honest and concentrate on their duties.

Severus was becoming frustrated with his search when he happened upon two rare treasures.

Madam Browning was a sweet widower with a kind heart, silver hair, and a gentle smile.

She had fondly told Severus about her career many years ago as a potioneer.

After Severus scanned her thoughts, he learned that she was looking for a purpose and a pleasant way to escape the loneliness of her empty home.

Severus offered Madam Browning a position at the apothecary right away and relief washed over him when she gladly accepted.

Ivan Vanner was a good-hearted man who had been previously employed as an elixir researcher in Durmstrang's underground laboratory, but had moved to Britain after marrying his wife.

Tall and formidable, with brownish hair and a rough beard, Severus recognized Ivan Vanner as a fellow alpha.

Like Severus, Ivan Vanner also lived in Hogsmeade with his young family.

Ivan was seeking employment that would allow him to stay close to his mate and pups, a noble cause that roused sympathy in Severus.

Ivan Vanner was offered a position at the Snapes' apothecary as well, which he happily accepted.

Lily met the new staff with a friendly smile, but while Severus trained the apothecary's employees, he saw less and less of his wife.

That made him all the more pleased that he had secured some help with his shop.

Severus enjoyed working, researching, and sharing his knowledge with his customers, sure, but Lily's hormones were chipping away at his nerves.

From her maddening scent to her rounded tummy, all Severus really wanted to do was lie down in the nest with his heavily pregnant mate and cuddle her close.

Neither Lily nor Severus had expected their unborn triplets to drain her magical abilities from her.

On the morning that she woke and failed to perform even a simple cleaning spell, Severus had sent for a healer immediately.

The healer came quickly, but after she performed a brief exam, the woman just patted Lily's belly and reassured the young couple that everything was fine.

Severus had never heard that carrying multiples could cause too heavy of a pull on the mother and sap her powers, but he was no expert on the subject, and he reluctantly accepted the healer's calming words as truth.

Lily hadn't taken the news all that well and she had spent the majority of the day in her nest with Harry.

How was she supposed to help Severus at all if she couldn't use her magic?

Magic was what she had depended on to keep up with the cooking and the cleaning.

Severus was already tending the shop and looking after her and Harry.

Lily felt like a burden.

After the apothecary closed and the employees went home for the evening, Severus went upstairs and prepared dinner after he found his wife still in her nest.

It bothered him that Lily didn't come to the table after the food was ready.

Severus carried Harry in his arms as he walked back to the bedroom that he shared with his lover.

Quietly, Severus stepped through the doorway and turned on the lamp beside the bed with a frown.

".....Lily?" Severus asked softly,

He heard his mate sigh as she shifted in her nest and looked over at him forlornly.

Severus glided over to her.

He earned a coo from Harry as he knelt down next to his darling.

Severus held out his hand to her while he spoke, "Lily.....? It's time to eat, love. Come on, let me help you up."

".....I'm not hungry, Sev." Lily whispered quietly.

In the dim light of the room, Severus frowned when he noticed that his wife's beautiful, emerald eyes were wet with tears.

"Lily.....It's only for a little while." Severus frowned as he sat down beside his mate, "A little while, then your talents will return. You're nearly done, love." He whispered as he let his free hand spread over what it could cover of Lily's womb.

"I know....." Lily whispered. Severus narrowed his eyes sympathetically at the sob he heard in her voice, "I just.....I'm.....I'm useless to you now! You're overseeing the house and the staff and the shop....Now you have to cook and clean and I just.....I just lie here!"

"Oh, Lily....." Severus sighed as he gently sat Harry down in his mother's nest. He moved forward to embrace his wife in his comforting arms as he spoke to her in his low voice, "Don't speak such ugly lies.... my love. You're carrying three.....that's a job in itself. You and I both have jobs to do..... My job right now is to look after you and Harry.....Your job right now is to look after our sons....or daughters."

Severus finished with a slight purr as he took the opportunity to place his hands on Lily's belly and feel the little motions that rippled under his palms.

"When these babies are born, Sev, I'll do everything, you'll see." Lily promised Severus as she smiled at him through her tears.

Severus leaned forward and stole a kiss from her plump lips until Harry crawled forward.

Little Harry decided to interrupt his parents by reaching up and yanking on a strand of his father's black hair.

Severus pulled away from Lily as he scowled down at Harry, but the giggle that escaped her throat quickly turned his attention back to her.

"Will you try and eat just a few bites, my love?" Severus asked as he looked at his omega while their curious little son cooed and crawled into his lap.

Lily blew out a breath before she wiped her tears away and nodded at Severus.

Severus scooped Harry up before he slipped his wand out of his pocket and gently levitated Lily out of her nest and onto her feet.

Her gentle groan made him wince.

Severus instantly stepped over to Lily's side and let her brace herself against him.

His black eyes focused on the prominent swell of his mate's belly while they left the bedroom and slowly walked towards the kitchen together.

Severus was certain that it was his imagination, but he thought that Lily's tummy had grown during the day.

As he watched his mate whimper and put a hand under the heavy swell of her womb, Severus hoped to himself that Quininns Co. Builders wouldn't need to honor their money-back guarantee.

Severus didn't want his money refunded, he wanted to get his family moved into their new home.

It wouldn't be too much longer before he and Lily would be meeting their three newborns.

Chapter 25 - A Bold Visit

Thank you for reading! Please let me know if you enjoy! I don't own any of Harry Potter!
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It was unbelievably cozy on that cold, winter morning while Lily lay cuddled with Severus under the many blankets and soft covers that made up her nest.

Outside, the day was just beginning to break and as she felt the little ones in her womb start to move, she sighed contentedly while Severus's black-haired head bobbed over her breasts.

Lily let out a quiet noise of pleasure while her husband's skillful tongue coaxed the early beginnings of her milk from her sore, tender glands.

His omega's happy whimpers made Severus want to growl in his throat, but he controlled himself well enough to continue his gentle ministrations as one of his hands soothingly rubbed Lily's womb while the other kneaded the soft mound that he suckled from.

Severus was a gentle lover anyway, but during the past few weeks, as Lily's pregnancy had progressed, he had become more fearful of accidentally harming her or their pups.

Severus had learned to handle his flower as delicately as if she were made of glass and his precautions had produced wondrous results for his darling.

His lips whispered across her skin like silky promises of happiness.

He knew exactly the right amount of pressure to put into his touch that would easily bring Lily bliss, but his motions remained smooth and controlled, along with the rolls of his hips whenever they managed to make love.

The midwife had assured them that as long as Lily felt comfortable, their intimate activities should be safe.

If Lily felt anything, it was that, comfortable.

Lily never had to worry about Severus rejecting her or looking at her with disgust.

No matter how large her womb swelled, the loving adoration that she had seen in Severus's eyes since their childhood stayed, as it would until the end of their days.

As her body prepared to nourish three newborns, Lily's breasts had become irritatingly responsive, but her alpha had made it a habit to ease her aches and pains there.

With one last, teasing pull, Severus released the nipple in his mouth and looked up at Lily while he licked his lips.

Lily's cheeks were flushed as she gazed up at Severus with her eyelids still heavy from sleep.

The intent stare that her husband gave her made her breath hitch as he held eye contact with her while he moved down again.....

Lily cried out softly as Severus's warm, wet mouth wrapped around her other neglected peak.

He cradled the soft weight of her breast in his hands while he began to gently empty the fluid inside, selfishly taking his pups' sustenance for his own breakfast.

In the minutes before Harry woke, Lily parted her thighs and under the exaggerated curve of her abdomen, Severus slipped inside of her.

It had become the Snapes' new routine that Severus's morning feeding sessions often turned into something more.

With her cheeks flushed from pleasure, Lily would settle down into her nest for a nap after Severus had finished glutting himself on her.

Each morning, Severus found himself full, refreshed, and focused when he arrived downstairs to run the apothecary and train the staff.

While Severus tended the shop, oversaw the construction of his family's home, and looked after his pregnant wife and infant son, Lily made use of her ample time to think.

She pondered to herself about what would happen when the babies came.

Severus would still be at the apothecary on occasion and she would visit as well, but.....who was going to help them care for their triplets?

Lily disliked the idea of hiring a stranger.

It was one thing to find employees who could look after their business, but their infants?

Lily wouldn't trust a stranger with their children.

She knew that as defensive and as protective as her alpha could be, Severus wouldn't even consider that as a possible option.

Regardless, the Snapes would need some help.

Lily and Severus both came from dreadfully small families.

Lily's sister, Petunia, wasn't a candidate for the task and both of her parents continued to work careers of their own.

Mr. and Mrs. Evans couldn't afford to retire early due to the birth of more grandchildren.

One morning, as the expectant omega thought back, she considered the look that she had seen on Severus's face when Eileen had come to visit their shop.

Lily knew that Severus's mother didn't work outside the home and that made her hopeful.

With one hand on her lower back, she found the strength to stand and leave her nest.

Lily padded into the kitchen while she pushed Harry along in the muggle baby pram that Severus had bought.

She could no longer lift Harry and without magic, there weren't many other options for her to transport her little boy from room to room.

Harry babbled softly while Lily began to make some blueberry scones with a smile on her face.

It would be a long journey to Spinner's End with Harry in tow and no magical assistance.

Severus would certainly never allow Lily to make the trip.

He didn't let Lily leave his sight, unless she was upstairs and he was downstairs, but she craved a private meeting with her mother-in-law.

Lily could hear the noise that echoed from the apothecary below.

It was a busy day at the Snapes' shop.

Lily was certain that she could return before Severus noticed she had left.

During the height of the apothecary's morning rush, Lily packed her freshly baked scones into a basket.

It took her several attempts, but after she concentrated very hard, she managed to use an echoing spark of her powers to slip herself, along with Harry in his pram, down the stairs.

Lily and Harry discreetly left the apothecary as they weaved through the throngs of people, right under Severus's nose.

Severus was so preoccupied by the influx of customers that he didn't notice his mate moving through the crowd.

Lily had carefully concealed her distinct red hair under the hood of her maternity robe.

Severus would have smelled her scent if it hadn't been obscured by that of so many others.

Mrs. Snape smiled to herself once she made it out into the street and promptly boarded a bus that ran between Hogsmeade and muggle Britain.

Muggle parents of magical children took that same, specialized bus to Hogsmeade and Diagon Alley.

The bus driver was kind enough to drop Lily off at the location of her choosing, which was in front of a plain, brick, nondescript house at the far corner of Spinner's End.

When Lily stepped off of the bus with Harry, the bus driver went so far as to help her unload the baby pram before he tipped his hat at her, climbed back into the vehicle, and drove off.

Lily waved the driver her thanks as the bus departed.

Once she and Harry were alone on the dingy street, she began to walk towards the house that she recognized as Severus's childhood home.

Severus had never spoken to Lily much about his experiences at home during his boyhood.

Lily had never been inside the building where her alpha had spent his formative years.

She knew that her husband's father had been distant and irritable, but that was as far as her knowledge went.

Lily was not at all prepared for what she would witness that day as she knocked on the door of Severus's childhood home and waited on the front stoop with Harry.

As the triplets moved within her, Lily laid a hand on her belly and shifted on her feet.

She hadn't spent so much time standing in weeks and it was proving to be more difficult than she had anticipated.

The door hesitantly cracked open a few moments later.

Eileen Snape, tall, dark-haired, and pale, cautiously peered out.

Her dark eyes widened when she saw Lily and Harry standing on her doorstep.

"Hello!" Lily chirped happily.

Eileen gasped as her dark gaze flickered down to Lily's heavy belly. She immediately opened the door wide as she gestured at Lily and spoke, "Oh, you poor dear! Come in, come in!"

"Thank you." Lily smiled sweetly as she took Harry's pram and wheeled her baby inside.

"I made some scones for you!" She announced as she handed Eileen the basket.

Eileen was so distraught that she didn't even mumble a word of thanks, but Lily noticed that her mother-in-law strangely stuffed the basket under a chair to hide it from sight.

"You poor thing!" Eileen repeated as she walked Lily over to the tattered sofa and helped her to sit down while she asked, "Why on earth has Severus let you come here alone? He hasn't run off and left you, has he?!?"

Lily blinked at the anguish on her mother-in-law's face.

She placed a hand protectively over her womb as she shook her head and replied with a laugh, “No....No, of course not! Severus and I are very much in love. He doesn’t know that I’ve come today.”

Eileen pushed Harry’s pram beside Lily, walked over, and sat down in the ragged chair across from the sofa.

Lily began to visualize a grimly accurate idea of how deplorable her alpha’s childhood had actually been as she glanced around.

The house was small, drab, dark, and dirty.

Everything from the curtains on the wall to the black floorboards appeared to be aged, worn, smeared with dirt, and coated with a thick layer of dust that had resulted from years of neglect.

“I hope that I haven’t.....come at a bad time.” Lily frowned as Eileen stared at her with large, worried eyes.

“Oh no, my dear.....” Eileen said distractedly, glancing down at Lily’s belly for a moment, then back up to her face as she spoke, “Thank you.....for the scones. You really shouldn’t have gone to the trouble. Is there anything that I can get for you? A glass of water? Something to eat?”

Behind Eileen, Lily watched as a disgustingly large insect with brown, fluttering wings crawled across the matted rug that lay on the floor.

“I-.....I’m fine, thank you.” Lily said with a polite smile before she revealed, “Um.....I’ve come to ask if you’d be willing to.....help Severus and I, once the children are born?”

Eileen looked at Lily for a moment with that same, unreadable expression on her face that Severus often wore.

Lily broke the silence as she stammered, “I-I know it’s a lot, but we wouldn’t expect you to be there constantly, and we wouldn’t get in your way, either! Please don’t worry about that! It’s only that I’ll need-“

“-I’d love to, dear.” Eileen replied with a sad but genuine smile.

“You.....you would?” Lily asked hopefully.

Eileen and Lily were sitting in the living area, right beside the front windows, close to the door.

Before Eileen could respond, the two women heard heavy footsteps coming up the brick path that led to the house and her eyes widened in fright.

“I’d love to, dear, really I would, but I can’t!” She cried out.

Lily watched her mother-in-law tremble as she stood from her chair.

What little color existed in Eileen's face vanished and her shoulders shook in terrified anticipation, as if she were awaiting a cruel punishment.

"What's the matter?" Lily asked with a scowl as she pressed her hand over her belly.

Keys jingled in the lock.

Eileen wrung her hands before she hissed at Lily, "Go! Apparate! Travel in the chimney with some of the Floo powder over there! Take Harry and leave this place! NOW!"

"I-I can't use magic!" Lily stuttered in a desperate reply as the door swung open.

The panic and fear that Lily saw in Eileen's eyes as she looked up at who stepped inside the house made the expectant omega's blood run cold.

Lily stared at her mother-in-law as she silently begged for her to laugh and say that it was all a joke, that she had only been concerned that Severus would find them gone and worry.

Her wants were ignored as she heard staggering footsteps stumble awkwardly across the entryway.

Lily turned around to see a drunken, dark-haired man scowling in menacing confusion as he looked at Eileen, then down at Lily before he fumed in a dangerous growl, "Eileen? Who the bloody hell is that? You know I don't like people comin' in."

From her seat on the sofa, Lily clutched her belly and Harry whimpered as tension filled the air.

Lily lamented the loss of her magic.

She had never been particularly gifted with mind spells, not like Severus, but maybe, if she had the opportunity to try, she would have been able to reach her alpha as the drunken man took an ominous step towards her, her baby, and her mother-in-law.

"Eileen?" The man growled again as he lumbered towards Lily, Harry, and his unfortunate wife. Lily felt fear seize her heart at the vicious snarl that formed on the man's reddened face as he hissed, "Answer me when I talk to you, you dumb bitch."

Chapter 26 - Severus, the Alpha, Lily, the Omega

Thank you for reading! Please let me know if you enjoy! I don't own any of Harry Potter!
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"Tobias.....calm yourself." Eileen nervously commanded the drunken man as he lumbered towards her and Lily.

Lily gasped as he growled in anger at Eileen's order and raised his hand behind himself threateningly while he stumbled forward.

Just before he crossed from the entryway into the living area, Eileen rushed in front of Lily, trembling and quivering.

Lily watched her mother-in-law pull her wand from her robes and brandish it at the drunken man as she called out, "T-Tobias.....calm yourself! I-I won't have you after Severus's family. Isn't it enough what you've done to him and me?!"

Tobias snarled.

Lily's heart raced.

Eileen gathered her courage and prepared to strike her husband down, but before she could fire a single spell, he fell on his own.

Lily shrieked as his heavy body crashed ungracefully into the wooden floor with a loud thud.

Eileen started at the sound.

As she turned to Lily, she saw her daughter-in-law staring at her with bewilderment in her wide, green eyes.

Lily had enjoyed the privilege of experiencing a lovely childhood and a healthy relationship with her mate.

She had never had to endure the terrors that Eileen and Severus had lived through or the dark moments that he had constantly tried to shield her from learning about.

Although Eileen attempted to settle herself, her voice still shook as she spoke to Lily with tears in her own eyes, "I-It's alright, love. H-He'll sleep for hours now. Y-You need to take the children and go home.....I-I can apparate you all, i-if you wish?"

Lily didn't know what to say.

The pain of her past and the internal scars that Eileen had suffered were plain on her thin, pale face as Lily gazed at the miserable woman.

The tears that ran from Lily's emerald eyes and the sobs that began to rack her chest were not from the fear that she had felt for herself, Harry, or her babies, they were for Eileen and Severus.

".....I'm so sorry." Lily whispered as she stared at Eileen while her tears trickled down her cheeks.

Back at the apothecary, Severus felt a twinge in his side at the exact second that Lily had shrieked when his father fell.

He rubbed at the fleeting pain around his rib cage with two of his slender fingers as he narrowed his dark eyes.

What did that mean?

Severus detected a vague hint of a connection and for a brief moment, he could have promised that he smelled his mate's scent next to him.

"Can you two handle things for a moment? I need to go and check on Mrs. Snape." Severus asked as he looked over at Madam Browning and Ivan.

"We'll be fine on our own." Madam Browning smiled at Severus while she packed another order for a customer who stood waiting patiently in front of her.

"Go on, we have things here." Ivan confidently answered Severus, "If you think that something's off, send for help, expectant women are delicate."

Severus nodded gratefully at his two employees before he left the apothecary's counter and glided up the stairs.

When he reached the landing of his and Lily's living quarters, he frowned in suspicion at the resounding silence.

Silence.....

Harry shouldn't have been napping that early, why didn't he hear anything at all?

Severus cautiously walked through the living area and the kitchen.

He peeked into the empty bathroom before he came to the bedroom that he shared with Lily and.....

His dark eyes widened when he found his wife's nest vacant and their room abandoned.

Severus whirled through their living quarters again in a frantic search before he raced downstairs to circle around the apothecary.

Once he determined the building to be devoid of Lily and Harry, Severus dashed out into the street and frantically looked through the bustling crowds of people for any sign of his mate and pup.

There had been no forced entry, no evidence of a struggle, but if they hadn't been abducted, then where could they have possibly gone?

Severus hurriedly turned and barged back into his shop.

Madam Browning and Ivan watched their employer trudge up the stairs again to his living space before they exchanged curious, worried glances with each other.

Severus returned to the bedroom that he shared with Lily and stood beside her nest for a moment.

He bent down and picked up her favorite pillow.

As he held it in his hands, he pressed his face to its cotton covering and breathed in the sweet scent of his omega.

After Severus let Lily's pillow fall from his grasp, he slipped his wand out of his pocket and cast the charm in his low purr of a voice as he called, "Expecto.....Patronum!"

A soft burst of silvery-white light poured from the tip of Severus's wand and materialized into the form of a gentle doe.

Severus closed his eyes, took a deep breath in, and thought of Lily as he entered broomless flight.

While the doe raced out of the apothecary and towards Severus's childhood home in Spinner's End, he followed along, moving out of an open window and through the streets in search of his beloved flower and their son.

"I'm so sorry! I'm so sorry!" Lily wailed to Eileen in traumatized gasps as her tears continued to pour from her eyes.

Eileen laid a comforting hand on her daughter-in-law's shoulder before she pulled her in close for a comforting hug.

She patted Lily's back soothingly as she whispered, "Ssh.....ssh.....it's alright, dear. You don't have anything to be sorry for, I'm the one who's sorry that you had to see that, I-"

Severus's patronus made its way through the open door.

On the doe's heels, Severus crashed inside his previous home in a swirling ball of black that fanned out to reveal him standing as his patronus disappeared.

His teeth were grit and his pale face was tight with fearful tension as he quickly scanned over the scene.

He saw Eileen holding Lily while she cried.....Harry lying in his pram and.....his drunken father flat on the floor in front of them.

“Lily!!!” Severus called out as he stepped over his father and strode towards his wife.

Severus’s black robes slapped Tobias in his reddened face, but he continued to snore, undisturbed, while his body processed a night’s intake of hard liquor.

“Severus!” Lily cried out as she reached for her husband.

Eileen let go of Lily and watched while the two young lovers embraced.

Lily’s sobs increased while she cuddled into the crook of Severus’s neck.

He felt his omega’s heavy belly press against his torso and he scowled over at Eileen while he wrapped Lily in the heavy fabric of his cloak that hung at his sides.

“Mother, what have you done?!” Severus hissed at Eileen while he tightened his grip on Lily, “Did he hurt my wife?!My son?!?! Did he hurt you.....again.....Mother?!”

While Lily clutched onto him, he hoped that the firmness of his grip combined with his scent would be enough to calm his distraught mate.

“I-I haven’t done anything, Severus!” Eileen cried defensively as her own tears began to slide down her face, “Your wife came and brought your son here of her own volition! I didn’t invite them! Do you honestly think that I’m daft enough to do that?! I tried to shoo them away.....but she wouldn’t leave! Your father came home.....I stepped in front of him, I did! His drink put him to sleep though, that’s all that happened....She’s just a bit upset now.”

“You should have knocked him back before he ever walked through the door! You should have knocked him back years ago!” Severus spat angrily at his mother.

He knew that his words were unfair, but Severus’s rage and fear clouded his sense of reason for a brief moment as he stood in the room where some of his worst memories had occurred, while his wife sobbed into his shoulder.

“Go on, then!” Eileen cried to her son, “Blame me, Severus! It’s all my fault! It always has been, hasn’t it?! Blame me like you father, that’s the one talent that you two share!”

Eileen was in tears, Lily was in tears, and Severus’s face held an expression of absolute dismay.

He chose not to continue his argument with his mother as he reached out and grabbed Harry.

Severus hastily removed his little family from Spinner’s End and guided them safely back to their apothecary.

Severus made plans to give Madam Browning and Ivan substantial raises.

He arrived with Lily and Harry back in their living quarters above their business.

Although Lily continued to weep loudly, Ivan and Madam Browning kept smiles on their faces and ran the shop downstairs as if nothing were out of the ordinary.

Severus had prepared himself to comfort Lily.

It surprised him that once they were back in their bedroom, while Lily continued to cry, she pulled Severus into her nest with her and cradled him against her chest as if he were an injured child.

Little Harry laid against his mother as Lily wept softly and smushed Severus face-first into the creamy swells of her breasts.

Her fingers slipped over his scalp and through his strands of raven-black hair as she pressed kiss after comforting kiss on the top of his head.

It touched Severus deeply when he realized that Lily wasn't worried about herself, instead, she was trying to comfort him and heal the wounds that he had sustained years ago.

They laid there for a long time in contemplative silence, before Lily whispered to Severus quietly, ".....You never told me."

Severus shifted to try and look up at her, but her arms held him firmly in place.

He would have been lying if he had claimed that the alluring jiggle of his mate's heavy cleavage didn't send a spark of arousal shooting through his groin.

Severus splayed his hands over the roundness of Lily's belly.

He forced himself to focus on the gentle motions that he felt underneath his palms to keep his thoughts on the issues that she seemed determined to discuss.

"It hurts me, Severus....." Lily whispered as she held him and closed her eyes while a single tear fell, "It hurts me more than you'll ever know that all these years, you never told me what it was like in your house.....in that house.....with him. I.....I can't imagine what you saw, what you heard.....as a child....."

Severus frowned as Lily's voice cracked again and her firm hold on him tightened even more as she squeaked, "I can't imagine what he did to you and your mum!"

Lily wailed while Harry cooed and blinked curiously at his mother.

Severus felt the motion in his omega's abdomen still as her belly shook from her heaving breaths.

A part of Severus wanted to bathe in the loving sympathy that he received from his darling Lily, but as she pulled him closer to her chest, he knew that he had to calm his mate down if he wanted to save his unborn children and himself.

Severus feared that his wife may send herself into early labor if she didn't relax.

Besides, if Lily pressed him any further into her ample bosom, he would perish from suffocation.

Admittedly, that was far from the worst death that Severus could imagine for himself, but he had hoped to watch his children grow.

"Sshily....." Severus's muffled, low voice called out from where his head lay wedged between her breasts.

When Lily continued to cry, Severus tried again, "Sshily....."

Over her own weeping, Lily didn't hear her alpha's attempts to gain her attention.

When Severus's lungs began to crave more oxygen than his mate gave them, he carefully but sharply gave the side of her full breast a loving nip with his incisors.

The delicious little yelp that escaped Lily's lips in response would have had them making love if the situation had been different, but Severus viewed her releasing her vice-like grip on him as a small consolation prize for the pleasure that would have to wait.

"Lily....." Severus whispered to his mate after he quickly wove his way out of her arms and up to look into her saddened, green eyes.

"Sev.....?" She asked with a frown.

"I never told you.....I never told you because I didn't want you to know." Severus explained.

Lily gasped and stammered, "I-I could have.....I could have helped you! I could have--"

"-What would you have done?" Severus asked with a frown.

"I.....I....." Lily sputtered while she thought.

"We were children, Lily." Severus said seriously as he took her hands in his.

Little Harry made a soft sound as he put the edge of a blanket into his tiny mouth.

Lily wiped away a new stream of tears from her eyes as she defiantly declared, "I....I could have asked Mum and Dad to let you live with us!"

"And do you believe that my mother would have agreed to that?" Severus frowned, "I was her only respite."

Lily sniffed as Severus told her, “.....And you were mine.”

After Lily hurriedly wiped away a few more tears, she gazed at Severus with a sad smile while her fingers drifted over his knuckles.

Severus squeezed her hand gently in an unspoken gesture of affection as he explained, “You were the light of my world when we were children.....as you are now.....and as you will be next year.....and the year after.....that will never change, Lily.”

“Sev.....!” Lily exclaimed.

A smile curled her lips as her tears continued to fall.

“I thought that you and I were supposed to tell each other everything?” Lily asked as she squeezed Severus’s hand in a gentle reply.

“You’re correct.....I acted selfishly because I didn’t want the darkness to touch my light.” Severus frowned, “I.....I sought happiness with you and solace in your company, Lily.....And I found it there.....Can you forgive me for not wanting that peace disturbed?”

Tears of sympathy continued to water in Lily’s eyes.

Her lips pursed together as she held back another sob.

She clutched Severus’s hand while they stared at each other for a long moment.

“I wouldn’t have gone today if I had known.....” Lily confessed as she sniffed once more and struggled to overcome her weepiness, “Can you forgive me for that, Sev?”

“I may be able to overlook your.....serious error....in judgement..... if you’re willing to make it up to me~.” Severus answered in a playfully chastising tone while he moved to sit behind Lily in her nest.

She giggled through her tears as he carefully pulled her and Harry towards him.

“I can forgive you, Lily, if you keep my pups safe, fed, and loved. You’ll also need to stay by my side until the end of my days. If you can manage that, then I suppose that I can overlook your.....mistake.” Severus concluded with a weighty, sarcastic sigh.

The happy laugh that he earned from Lily was a balm to Severus’s worry.

Good, he had amused her, perhaps she would finally calm down.

“I love you, Sev.” Lily said with a smile as she looked up and tenderly touched the side of his face.

Harry crawled into what was left of his mother’s lap and placed his very small hands on her very big belly.

Severus leaned down and let his fingers tilt Lily's chin up towards him until their lips met in a soft kiss.

It had been a stressful day for everyone.

The Snapes thoroughly enjoyed the evening that they spent cuddling together.

Chapter 27 - A Mother's Joy

Thank you for reading! Please let me know if you enjoy! I don't own any of Harry Potter!
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When morning came the next day, Severus breathed a quiet sigh of relief.

After he had cuddled her into oblivion, Lily had spent the night in one of the most restful sleeps that she had enjoyed during the past couple of weeks.

As he stared down at her sleeping form, his dark eyes flickered down to her belly questioningly.

If Severus's children had been active during the previous hours, their little kicks and punches apparently hadn't been very strong since their mother hadn't seemed to notice.

Concern gripped Severus's heart.

.....Had the babies not moved?

.....Did that mean that something was wrong?

Severus bent forward, laid a hand on Lily's abdomen, and kissed her cheek.

When he felt the flurry of motion that assaulted his palm and fingers, a small smirk of triumph curled the ends of his thin lips.

Lily sighed in her sleep and rooted into the covers of her nest when she felt her alpha's lips grace her skin.

Severus resisted the urge to purr as he watched her.

The words that he had spoken to his mate the day before had held the utmost meaning and sincerity.

Severus contemplated his phrasing while he rose and dressed for the day.

Lily was Severus Snape's light.

Lily was Severus Snape's solace.

Before he left the bedroom, he cast one last glance at his sleeping wife as a small frown ghosted over his face.

Severus hadn't meant to be so harsh with his mother, it was fear that had spoken, not Severus.

Anything and anyone that threatened to take his darling flower from him garnered an immediate and incoherently defensive response.

The Snapes' family home was scheduled to be completed in two weeks.

The triplets were due to arrive in seven.

As Lily progressed through the final stages of her pregnancy, her midwife had recommended nest rest, which was inconvenient for everyone.

Although she was tired and achy, Lily grew bored of sitting in her nest all day long and staring at the walls.

Playing with Harry was her only form of amusement while Severus was downstairs supervising the apothecary and giving his employees guidance when they asked.

In addition to running the shop, cooking, cleaning, and tending Harry when Lily could not, Severus felt an innate need to be by his mate's side.

Throughout the day, his work was interrupted by the frequent trips that he made upstairs to check on Lily and gently pat her belly.

Harry didn't understand why he and his Mummy couldn't go somewhere else besides the bedroom where her nest lay.

Harry didn't understand why he wasn't allowed to stand on her huge tummy either, which to the imaginative toddler resembled the mountains in his picture books.

Lily contented herself with the excitement of looking forward to her new home and the birth of her three little ones.

Severus contented himself with his mate's sweet scent, which lulled him into a dreamless sleep each night as he held her close and rested.

A week before the family was slated to move into their new home, Severus took a few moments to organize the apothecary one evening while the Snapes' dinner baked in the oven upstairs.

The shop had closed an hour ago.

Customers and employees were no longer around.

Severus worked alone as he squinted at the wall of the stocked ingredients that were stored in jars, illuminated by the glow of the candlelight from the burning wax that sat on the nearby counter.

His attention was called away by the chiming of the bells that hung over the shop's door.

Ring, ring.

Severus stopped his work and turned around to watch Eileen walk into the vacant apothecary.

"Mother...." Severus said with a frown as she slowly walked towards him with a similar frown on her own lips.

Eileen came to stand in front of her son and as she did, she clasped her hands together while Severus looked into her dark eyes.

"I spoke to you hatefully.....I...I didn't mean to be so brash, I was frightened for Lily and the children." Severus shamefully explained.

He had seen his father shout at his mother for a lifetime.

It sickened Severus that he had become so undone as to raise his voice to her too.

"As you should have been, Severus." Eileen replied with a bitter smile, "I had stepped between them myself, though, before your arrival. I would have blasted your father out of the house before I let him lay a finger on your wife or your little ones."

Severus swallowed thickly as he nodded curtly at his mother.

He didn't speak the question on his mind because he didn't want to appear rude, however, he couldn't help but wonder.....why had she come?

Severus had inherited his Legilimency skills honestly.

"After your wife's visit, dear, and the words that you spoke to me, I made a decision." Eileen declared with a proud resoluteness in her voice, "I left your father."

"Oh....." Severus whispered as he processed that thought for a moment.

The joy of that news took away any pain that may have been brought by the announcement of his parents' separation.

His heart skipped a beat in happy shock.

"That's lovely, Mother." Severus nodded.

".....And I've come to start my new job." Eileen informed her son with a smile.

Severus looked at his mother and blinked as he hesitantly replied, ".....Of course, Mother. I have two already in my employ, but I can certainly find work for you in the shop."

"Yes, well, son, I'm afraid that I haven't come to work in your apothecary." Eileen said with a smile.

Severus blinked at her incredulously while his dark eyes narrowed in confusion.

“.....I’ve come to take the job that your wife offered me.” Eileen revealed with a happy grin.

After sharing a family dinner together, a single light burned in the dark apothecary building while the Snapes huddled in Severus and Lily’s bedroom.

Lily lay in her nest, leaned back against Severus as their hands slipped over the round curve of her belly.

Baby Harry sat on his grandmother’s lap while she rocked him gently in the chair next to the bed and read aloud to everyone from The Tales of Beedle the Bard.

Story time concluded when Harry collapsed against his grandmother’s bosom with drool running out of his little mouth while he dreamed about Babbitty Rabbitty and Amata.

Severus and Lily moved to get up and take Harry to bed, but Eileen swiftly laid a finger over her lips as she glanced at them both.

She sat the book down on the edge of the unused bed and silently rose from her chair as her arms cradled Harry against her.

Lily smiled and Severus’s dark eyes softened as he watched his mother walk out of the room with his son.

He remembered sleeping on his mother like that many years ago when he had been just a bit older than Harry.....

Eileen passed by the lavatory and turned into Harry’s nursery where Severus and Lily had made her a small bed with an enchantment that had comfortably expanded an ottoman.

She gently rubbed Harry’s dark hair and kissed his chubby cheek before she laid the sleeping baby boy down in his cot.

She stared at her grandson for a while before she silently moved over and crept into her makeshift bed.

It amused Eileen that she caught herself pretending Harry was Severus, small enough to fit into her arms again.

As she rolled over in her bed, she noticed a tingling sensation in her veins and she wondered to herself if that wasn’t part of her power asking if it could come back?

Eileen had led a life of suppression, but she closed her eyes and smiled as she took comfort in the knowledge that that period was over.

Besides the tingling in her body, as she laid beside Harry in his nursery, Eileen became aware of a feeling that she hadn’t known in a long time.

There, in her son's home, Eileen Snape felt utterly and completely.....safe.

"Your mother's so good with Harry." Lily sighed as she and Severus attempted to settle down to sleep once Eileen had taken their baby to bed.

"She won't disappoint you with the triplets either, Lily." Severus replied as he pulled the covers over them both, "I didn't have....much.....when I was younger.....but I had her."

Severus's statement rang with a touching sweetness and he hoped that would be enough to fend his wife off as he rolled over to face the opposite direction from her.

For the last few nights, Severus had almost started to dread bedtime.

He wasn't sure what had happened, if her actions were driven by emotions or by her raging hormones, but Lily had been insatiable.

Each night, Severus would crawl into bed, close his eyes, and a second later, Lily would be pawing at him, teasing his manhood with her fingers as she pressed herself against him and whispered about how full and ready she was.....

Severus had tried his best to refuse her affections, but whenever she put her milky breasts in his face or deepened their goodnight kiss to the point where he felt like his soul would leave his body to be consumed by her, his primal, alpha instincts had overtaken his better judgment.

Lily was a marvel to him as he watched her each night while she found the energy within herself to make love to him.

The mere image of her riding him while he squeezed her bottom and watched her bounce up and down on his manhood as her belly rippled with his children and her heavy breasts slapped against each other was enough to bring Severus release on its own.

He didn't understand why his mate suddenly held such a great desire for him though, and for hours after their coupling sessions, he laid awake and watched over her, worried that their lovemaking either heralded the start of labour or would trigger it soon afterwards.

It hadn't been that way when Lily had carried Harry, she hadn't felt all that well towards the end.

Each night, after her thirst had been slaked, Lily slept with a smile on her face that was so sweetly pleasant it almost seemed smug.

The situation had amused Severus in a way.

While they tried to balance a business, prepare for a move, and anticipate a birth, his omega's most pressing concern at the end of each day was having her fill of him.

Severus laid with his back to his bride and felt her shift behind him restlessly until his closed eyes cracked open.

“.....Are you alright, my love?” Severus hesitantly asked.

He had already made up his mind to avoid his omega’s trap that night.

Severus Snape would not be ensnared by another plea from his mate that she couldn’t get comfortable.

He laid there and waited quietly for Lily’s response.

When none came, he dared to glance over his shoulder towards his expectant lover, worried that she may be in distress.

A hand on him suddenly rolled him onto his back as his eyes widened.

“.....Lily?!” Severus gasped as her long, red tresses trailed down and spilled onto his nightshirt like swirls of red ink.

The playful glow in her green eyes made Severus’s mouth go dry and as she bent down, he braced himself for the heavy task of refusing himself an indulgence in her hypnotic kiss.

Severus flinched when her lips connected with his throat instead.

“Lily.....?” Severus whispered warningly as she placed sweet, sucking kisses down his throat and over his chest.

“Lily.....?” Severus repeated as he moved in her nest while she raised his nightshirt up and kissed across his abdomen, “.....We spoke about this yesterday.....remember?”

Severus hissed as Lily flicked her tongue across his sensitive navel in a silent reply of healthy defiance.

“We need to think about the children.....” Severus growled as Lily pulled his trousers down and nipped her way down the fine layer of raven-black hair that trailed from Severus’s abdomen down to his manhood.

When Severus felt his little minx wrap her soft, warm hand around his obscenely hard arousal and gently help it spring into the chill of the evening air, he bristled at the dual sensation.

“Lily.....” Severus growled as he looked down at his wife with a scowl, “I am your husband.....I am your mate....I am your alpha.....Listen to me! My love.....I know what’s best for our pups.”

Lily pulled away, blinked at Severus with a pout, and asked, “Do you think that your sons or daughters can thrive growing in the womb of a mate that you decline to satisfy?”

Severus narrowed his eyes at the way that his darling twisted his words.

Lily licked her lips impatiently.

She held Severus’s onyx gaze in her own as she leaned forward.....

Forward.....

Forward.....

Severus watched her plush, pink lips part right over the aching head of his arousal and he sat up quickly as he hurried to say, "That's not what I meant, I-"

Severus's black eyes widened as Lily pulled his length into her mouth.

He much preferred to be inside his mate, but Lily bobbing her head over him was a rare treat that he found himself powerless to refuse.

His fingers tangled in her crimson hair as he felt himself start to throb while his breath became ragged.

His eyes squinted shut.

He still had time.....he could recover himself and then-

Severus groaned quietly as that delightful suction was cruelly removed.

He felt a gentle weight on him and opened his eyes to see Lily climbing to straddle him.

"Lily!" Severus cried out as she raised her hips as best she could and guided her alpha into that place deep inside her where she liked to feel him best, ".....LILY!"

It was over the moment that she sank down on Severus with a moan of relief.

He reached around her and dug his nails into the fleshy cheeks of her bottom while she bounced on top of him as if it were the most natural thing in the world.

If their loving sent her into labour, then Severus would pull their babies from her womb himself if the need arose.

Alpha or not, as Severus watched his wife ride him like a war stallion while she raced towards her own victory of pleasure, he was reminded of one unfortunate truth.....

Severus Snape was unable to deny his darling Lily anything that she wanted.

Chapter 28 - Welcome Home

Thank you for reading! Please let me know if you enjoy! I don't own any of Harry Potter!
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Severus had visited his property several times to inspect the work of Quininn's Co.'s team.

At each viewing, he had been flabbergasted by the quality and speed that the builders were able to utilize.

During the final walkthrough before he signed the construction completion papers, Severus had wandered around his new home with his dark eyes wide and his mouth open in awe.

After obtaining Lily's permission, Severus had shrewdly paid the builders an extra fee for furnishing services.

They had provided him with catalogue after catalogue for Lily to look through and choose the decorations that she wanted in her home.

She didn't ask Severus to surprise her with that part.

Omegas usually decorated their houses, and with Lily's nesting instinct in overdrive, Severus knew better than to argue, not that he minded what she chose anyway.

Once Lily had made her selections, Severus had taken that information to the builders and they had handled the tasks of ordering the furniture and decor, receiving the items, moving them into the house, and appropriately placing everything.

When the day finally arrived for the Snapes to move into their new home, Ivan and Madam Browning ran the apothecary while Eileen looked after Harry in the apartment above the shop.

Severus wanted to have a private moment to show Lily around their new dwelling.

He had barely slept the night before.

How was it possible for him to rest when he couldn't stop imagining the look that would be on Lily's face while he showed her their lovely house?

Severus had been up at sunrise to visit the property and do one last check to ensure that everything looked absolutely perfect for his mate.

Once he satisfied himself, he returned to the apothecary and crept back into Lily's nest.

Silently, he pulled his wife into his arms while he patiently waited for her to wake.

Severus heard Harry's happy giggles echo down the hallway as Eileen played with his young son.

Gradually, with a soft groan, Lily began to stir.

As she slowly woke, she smelled Severus next to her and instinctively turned towards him for as much of a cuddle as her rounded middle would allow.

"Good morning." Severus greeted her in a soft, low voice after her emerald eyes cracked open.

".....Good morning." Lily answered with a heavy sigh.

Severus held her close as she wrapped her arms around him and buried her face into the crook of his neck.

His hands drifted down her sides and onto her abdomen as he whispered to her gently, ".....Our home is ready."

Severus braced himself excitedly for the happy smile that Lily would certainly flash him.

She had waited months to see the house and Severus had waited to see Lily's beaming smile when he told her they could finally go home.

He frowned when her smile never came.

".....Lily?" He asked worriedly.

He gently pushed his face into her red hair and breathed in deeply.

Her scent hadn't changed overnight.....what was wrong?

"Aren't you happy, my love?" Severus asked after a tense moment.

"I'm very happy, Sev." Lily sighed again as she shifted under the covers, "I just don't feel very well."

Severus sat up in his wife's nest immediately and looked at her as his black eyes widened, "You..... You don't feel well? Are you in any pain? Should I send for the--"

"-No, Sev." Lily replied as she shook her head and closed her eyes, "It's not time, I just.....I feel like I may be falling ill. I don't feel well....at all. I'm not in any pain though, please don't fret."

Severus frowned in sympathy as he moved his hands from Lily's belly up to her shoulder while he whispered gently, "That's alright, Lily.....We can see the house some other time."

He spoke gently, without his disappointment detectable in his voice, but his heart fell into the bottom of his feet as he mourned the idea of watching his wife's joy.

“No.” Lily said flatly.

Severus blinked as she sat up with a groan and placed a hand on her belly while she held his gaze, “We’re moving today, Sev. You, your mother, Harry, me.....we’ve all been looking forward to it. Give me a moment to get dressed, then we’ll be on our way.”

Severus frowned as he protested, “...But, Lily, you-“

Lily silenced him by placing a finger over his lips as she looked into his eyes and nodded, “-I’m fine, Sev. I didn’t sleep well, that’s the cause. I asked for a proper nest and you built one for me. Now I’d like to see it, please.”

Severus didn’t bother disagreeing with his heavily pregnant lover as he helped her to her feet as another tired groan left her lips.

He marveled at the swell of Lily’s belly while he watched her slip into her robes for the day and wondered to himself how much longer it would be until their little ones came?

Four days ago, during their last visit to the midwife, she had reminded the Snapes that Lily wasn’t due to deliver for another three weeks.

The woman had then cautioned the couple that that didn’t mean their triplets couldn’t come any time before.....

An hour later, Severus brought Lily, blindfolded, to their new property.

They landed in the soft grass with a gentle thump as their feet touched the earth.

Severus kept one hand on Lily’s lower back while he reached up and delicately began to remove her blindfold.

She took a deep breath in as she anxiously waited to see her new home.

Her back ached and she still felt off, but she tried to brush those sensations aside.

Their new home.....that Severus had designed and purchased.....wouldn’t it be lovely?!

Severus managed to undo the knot and slip the blindfold away.

Lily opened her emerald eyes, which widened as she looked around and opened her mouth to take in a long, deep breath.

The Snapes’ new house was lovely indeed, a true work of art.

Severus had commissioned Quininn’s Co. Builders to display their vast array of talents, which they had done in excess.

“Sev!” Lily gasped as she clasped a hand over her mouth.

The large house had been constructed to look like a fairytale dwelling.

Its architecture was odd and whimsical, with a multitude of different-shaped windows, and a roof made from something that resembled cobblestone.

Flowering vines trailed up the side of the house that Severus had orchestrated with a silent spell to bloom as Lily's gaze fell over them.

A dreamy little stone path led up to the wide, arched doors at the house's entrance.

The porch that wrapped around the front of the dwelling was spacious enough for the entire Snape family to enjoy the sunrises and sunsets that could be observed over the picturesque, rolling hills in the distance.

Lily could hear the sound of splashing waves nearby and as she looked around at the lush foliage that surrounded the house and the green grass, she laughed at the delightful seclusion of their new abode.

Severus had purchased a piece of property far away from the hustle and bustle of the wizarding world in hopes that it would be a place where he and Lily could escape to their family life.

The house would allow them to raise their children in undisturbed peace.

It was beautiful.

The sea that rolled under the high cliff past the white, iron gate in the backyard, smelled wonderful, and Lily closed her eyes as she laughed again.

"Is it to your liking so far?" Severus nervously asked his wife.

Lily forgot her physical discomfort for a moment as she nodded and placed a hand on her belly.

"I love it, Sev!" She declared with a happy smile.

"Would you like to see more?" He asked solicitously.

After Lily nodded, Severus took her hand and kept his other on her lower back as he slowly walked with her up to the front door of the house.

Lily smiled at the colorful flower garden that had already been planted between the stone walkway and the side of the house's outer wall.

Like Lily herself, the flower blossoms were in full bloom.

Severus's triplets wriggled inside of her as he opened the large doors and helped her inside.

Lily gasped again as her eyes lit up while she enjoyed her first look at the house's interior.

The entrance room was vast, with many inviting corners.

The entire bottom of the house was open.

The kitchen sat back against one wall, a large sofa was in the middle of the room, and a massive, gated fireplace stood towards the end.

There were reading corners scooped out and plenty of room for-

“The children can play here.....we can keep them in our sights.” Severus explained while Lily walked over the wooden floorboards, which were the exact shade of brownish blonde that she had requested.

“We can sit on the sofa together in the winter.” Severus continued while Lily walked towards the windows behind the fireplace and gazed out at the expansive conservatory room that Severus had the builders attach onto the house, which offered wonderful views of the gardens in the backyard, “And in the summer, the children can play in outside while you and I work on new potions.....”

Severus glided over to stand behind Lily as she looked out of the glass windows next to the fireplace.

He frowned and placed his hand on her belly when he saw in her reflection that tears trickled from her eyes.

“My love.....?” Severus asked, “If there’s anything that you find to your disliking, I can-“

Lily cut him off as she turned her head and pressed her lips against his in a gesture of loving gratitude.

The birds chipped outside as Mr. and Mrs. Snape christened their new home by sharing their first first kiss in the dwelling.

Lily leaned back against Severus while his hands encircled what they could cover of her round womb.

Under the influence of his omega’s intoxicating gentleness, Severus lamented the fact that his wife’s pregnancy had progressed to such a degree.

They were alone, it was quiet, tranquil, and there was a meaningful sentiment in that moment.

Severus would have liked nothing better than to have helped Lily onto the sofa, laid her back, and claimed her right in the middle of their new house.

When their kiss came to a reluctant end, Severus helped his mate up the stairs and showed her more of their grand home.

The basement below had been set up as a very detailed potions room in which Severus could brew, research, and brood.

Lily had found it amusing how closely it resembled the potions classroom at Hogwarts and Slughorn's office, but she looked forward to her husband having more space than the back area of the apothecary to conduct his research.

Severus showed her the bathrooms quickly although Lily did delight in the romantic tub and the expansive stone shower that their private lavatory contained.

The bedrooms came next.

Lily had trouble counting them all.

Harry's room, Eileen's room, her and Severus's room, were all outfitted well, along with a vast nursery for the triplets, but beyond that, as Lily wandered around the hallways with Severus, she noticed that more and more bedrooms seemed to appear.

".....Sev?" Lily asked with a chuckle as she mindlessly rubbed her belly, "How many bedrooms did you think that we need?"

The intent that Lily saw in her alpha's black eyes as he gazed at her in a silent response made her blush as she contemplated what their coming years may bring.

As much as Lily enjoyed seeing every centimeter of her new, beautiful home, her favorite part of the house was the nest that Severus helped her make that morning on the floor of their bedroom.

With his assistance, she moved her current nest from their rooms above the apothecary into their bedroom in their new house and added to it several extra blankets, pillows, and a couple of Severus's nightshirts.

It made him frown when Lily crawled into her cozy respite as soon as she was satisfied with its arrangement.

He cautiously watched as his omega rolled onto her side and let out a breathy sigh.

The house was large, so was Lily's tummy and the weight that the babies exerted on her spine.

That ache had never fully left her back that morning and after traipsing around their new property, Mrs. Snape was exhausted.

"My love, are you alright? Is there anything that I can do for you?" Severus asked as he gently stroked his omega's red hair and tucked the many blankets around her to ward off any chills.

“No, Sev.” Lily replied with a gentle smile as she closed her eyes, “.....I just need to rest for a while.”

Severus kept his frown as he leaned down and kissed her cheek lovingly while she snuggled against him.

He held her close until she slipped into a deep, restful sleep.

When the opportunity came, Severus apparated to the apothecary and a moment later, returned with Eileen and Harry to show his mother and infant son their new home.

Eileen was more than impressed.

She marveled at her son’s house with wide eyes and a shocked expression of disbelief.

Upstairs in her nest though, Lily furrowed her brow in her sleep while she tossed and turned uncomfortably.

Her eyes opened when a wave of nausea coupled with a raging burst of pain rose from her gut all the way up to her throat.

“S-SEV!!!” Lily called out as she swallowed dryly.

Her hands flew to her rounded abdomen as her eyes darted round the expertly painted walls and the elegant decorations that hung on them.

Quininns Co. Builders had delivered, it was time for Lily to do the same.

Chapter 29 - 1,2, and 3

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Footsteps came pounding up the staircase as Lily sat up in her nest.

She tried to swallow the metallic lump in her throat as her arms trembled while Severus burst through their bedroom door.

His black eyes widened in concern as what little color his face held drained away.

Eileen was on his heels with Harry in her arms, who blinked at his mother curiously.

"Lily!" Severus cried as he rushed forward and knelt down beside her.

His black robes fanned out in an elegant flourish that resembled the flutter of a raven's wings as he placed a hand on her tensing belly.

"I.....I.....think our little ones want to see their new home too." Lily gasped as she pressed Severus's fingers down on her abdomen.

Eileen hurriedly bustled over to crouch at Lily's other side.

Severus watched his mother lay her free hand on his pregnant wife's womb.

Lily's breath hitched and Eileen calmly told him, "It looks like you've got some time, Severus, but go ahead and send for the midwife.....your poor dear's got a long night ahead of herself."

Severus's brow furrowed in concern.

Lily swallowed thickly and placed a hand over her clammy forehead. Her face paled as she gasped, "I.....I'm sick!"

Eileen slid her wand out so quickly that Severus barely saw his mother move as she called, "ACCIO WASTEBASKET!"

A waste bin instantly came flying through the doorway.

The receptacle landed right next to Lily just in time for her to lean over and retch into it.

Eileen frowned in sympathy for her daughter-in-law before she looked over at Severus and shook him out of his nervousness as she commanded, "Call the midwife, Severus! Go on, I'll look after her and Harry for a moment."

Harry whimpered as his grandmother used her free hand to comb Lily's red hair back from her face.

Severus scrambled to his feet.

His memories of Harry's birth were happy, although the experience had been anything but calm and peaceful.

Severus felt frightened about how three lives entering the world all at once would go.

The expression on his pallid face was firm and stoic.

Regardless, his hand shook as he stepped out of the bedroom, held his wand tightly, and summoned Lily's midwife.

It wasn't uncommon for an omega to carry multiples or choose a home birth, but that didn't make delivering triplets a job for one person.

Severus sighed in relief when he saw that the healthcare practitioner had not come to assist Lily by herself.

Lily's midwife brought two assistants with her to the Snapes' residence that evening.

She had originally declared a need for three, but when Eileen announced her presence and Lily expressed her permission to have her mother-in-law near her birthing bed, the midwife counted Severus's mother as another helper.

Severus did have a lot more confidence in the arrival of his youngest children with four women in their house to help him guide Lily through her labour.

That was much better than the scenario of her water breaking in front of their peers and having to rely on his worst enemy to help him carry her up to the infirmary while she panted and groaned.

Eileen had been right, though.

Lily had a long night ahead of herself.

Harry went to sleep fairly soon after his mother's torment began, which left Eileen free to assist Severus, the midwife, and her helpers.

Together, they all coached Lily and gave her gentle massages whenever she wanted to be touched.

After Harry's speedy arrival, Severus wondered how long it would take for his triplets to be born?

The answer made his heart ache in pity for his mate.

At sunrise the next morning, Lily continued to labour as she groaned and panted on all fours in her nest.

Her bare body glistened with sweat.

Severus frowned as he rubbed gentle circles into his darling's lower back while his mother, the midwife, and her assistants helped Lily through another tortuous spasm.

"She can't endure this forever." He murmured to the midwife while Eileen blotted Lily's forehead, "My son's birth had nearly finished by the time we realized that it had begun."

The midwife focused on her patient as Severus frowned and suggested, ".....Perhaps we should take her to a hospital?"

"Noooooooo....." Lily moaned as her belly clenched again.

The midwife shook her head at Severus in disagreement and replied, "She's doing well, the children she carries aren't in distress.....she may just be a bit.....nervous."

"Nervous?" Severus asked as Lily shifted under his hands.

He instinctively applied more pressure to her aching spine as she pressed herself into his palms.

The midwife looked around the room for a moment before she smiled at Severus and answered, "Didn't you mention, Mr. Snape, that you and your family moved into this house today? If that's so, then this is a new environment for her.....sometimes omegas need adjustment periods to feel comfortable."

Severus and the midwife frowned at each other before the midwife added, "It may be all of us here with her, too. Let me see...."

Severus watched as the midwife bent down next to Lily's face and gently swept her scarlet hair to the side as she asked, "Lily.....tell me what you want.....What can we do to help you and your littles?"

As Lily slowly turned her face to the midwife, Severus saw the pain in her eyes and his heart broke for his lover.

"Sev.....I need Sev....." Lily sighed as she collapsed onto her side.

"Would you like some time alone with your alpha?" The midwife asked her patient as she glanced over at Eileen and her assistants.

The midwife nodded to silently signal for them to take their hands off of the labouring woman.

When Lily grunted in response, the midwife calmly stood.

The midwife's two assistants and Eileen stood as well before they obediently followed her as she walked towards the door to the bedroom.

"You're going to abandon us?!" Severus hissed at the midwife while Lily crawled over and clutched onto his shoulders with an irritated sob.

"Of course not.....We'll be right outside, Mr. Snape." The midwife reassured Severus after she turned to face him with a smile of tranquil reassurance, "Your wife needs some quiet time with you to help your children arrive. Keep the light in the room dim and burn her favorite candles. When you need us, just call, and we'll return."

Severus narrowed his dark eyes as the midwife, her assistants, and his mother left the room.

"L-Lily, what do you want me to do?" Severus asked his mate with a scowl of deep concern as he gently rubbed her back while she hung from his shoulders.

"L-Love me, Sev....." Lily groaned with a pained whimper, "I-I need you to love me."

Severus did as his mate requested and the midwife suggested.

He burned Lily's favorite lavender candles and drew the curtains in their bedroom to keep out any rays of distractingly bright light.

The hormones that wafted from Lily's skin spoke to his alpha instincts and helped him understand how to love her through her labour.

When her scent failed to direct him, Severus used a simple touch of Legilimency to skim her thoughts and learn what he could do to help her.

He walked with Lily and let her lean against him for support.

He cuddled her close and held her in his arms while his fingers worked to ease the crippling tension in her lower spine.

He kissed away her tears and murmured gentle words of encouragement to his beloved flower when he sensed that she felt like listening.

The midwife had been correct.

Lily needed to lie the arms of her alpha for her body to complete its work.

Between Severus's low, soothing voice, the reassurance of his familiar scent, and the gentle firmness of his grasp, Lily's womb opened as the children inside her belly began to make their way into the world.

Severus had Lily on her side when she moaned deep in her chest as the first baby's head started to descend.

“OOOOOHHHH!”

It was that raw, primal noise that made Severus call out for the women to rejoin them in his low, rumble of a voice, “MOTHER! COME QUICKLY!”

The bedroom door opened a second later and the midwife hurriedly swept over to Lily as her assistants and Eileen followed.

Severus prided himself that Lily hadn’t actually screamed yet. He had her relaxed enough that her vocalizations had all been primitive, guttural expressions of effort, but not cries of panicked fear like they had been with Harry.

As his omega gasped and buried her face in the crook of his neck, he smirked in bitter triumph.

That had seemed to be Lily’s place of comfort that day, the crook of Severus’s neck, hidden by his soft, black hair.

“You’re doing so well, my love...” He whispered to his darling as she sobbed into his shoulder while Eileen gently raised one of her daughter-in-law’s legs at the midwife’s request.

“Alright, dear, when you feel ready, go ahead and bear down.” The midwife instructed Lily after she sanitized her hands, gave her patient a quick exam, and grabbed a towel.

Everyone in the room waited for a moment until Lily groaned again.

“NNNGGHHH!” She gasped as the pain swelled again.

Severus stared into her eyes as she held his gaze.

He kept his velvet voice calm as he looked at her and gently instructed, “Go ahead and bear down, my love. We’re nearly there now....”

Severus couldn’t help but let his eyes narrow in sympathy for Lily when he placed a hand on her belly and felt the rigidity of her abdomen as she closed her eyes.

Lily sought respite in the crook of his neck again, as if her alpha could save her from the pain of bearing his pups while she moaned, “NNNNGGGHHH!”

“Here it comes! Again, Lily! Let’s have another one!” The midwife cheered.

Lily let out a frustrated huff as she shifted against Severus and the pillows.

He kissed her sweaty temple as he murmured in her ear, “Another, my love, the first is almost with us.....”

Lily sighed in exasperation before the tightening agony returned. She groaned once more as she bore down, “NNNNGGGHHH!”

The midwife rushed forward and everyone fell silent, except for Lily, who panted heavily.

Severus gasped in relief when he heard a sharp little shriek echo through the room.

“WWWWAAAA!”

“The first baby is a boy! A healthy little boy!” The midwife announced as she swaddled the squirming, new life in a warm towel.

Severus glanced at Lily in elated surprise and she threw him a half-smile as she rolled onto her back.

The midwife looked content while she moved to hand the baby up to his mother for a brief first meeting, “Here you are, I’ll let Mummy have a-“

“WWWWAAA!”

The midwife stopped when Lily groaned and placed a hand on her belly as she closed her eyes.

“Lily.....?” Severus asked worriedly.

“Lily, dear, don’t push yet! Don’t push!” The midwife cried as she hastily shoved the whimpering newborn into the arms of her closest assistant.

“I’M....NOT.....PUSHING!” Lily grunted as she gripped the blankets that she lay on in her fists.

Severus gently touched his omega’s shoulders to support her as she blew out an exhausted breath.

He peered over her belly to watch the second triplet slide into the midwife's waiting hands.

Eileen and the midwife’s assistants gasped.

Lily cried out at the sudden sensation of emptying, but the midwife reassured everyone with a nod and a quick word, “It’s alright, it’s alright! Our second boy is as strong as the first!”

“WWWWAAAA!”

The two newborns’ cries mingled together as Lily whimpered while another contraction started.

Severus’s dark eyes widened as she squeezed his hand.

He watched the midwife reach over and grab another clean towel....

“Are triplets supposed to be birthed in such quick succession?” Severus asked as he glanced at the midwife, then his mother, then back at the midwife, hoping to hear a comforting word from someone.

“Sometimes it takes hours, sometimes it takes seconds!” The midwife smiled at Severus while she kneaded Lily’s thigh as the labouring woman curled forward and bore down again with a groan, “NNNNGGGHHH!”

“There you are, good girl.....do what you need to....” The midwife coaxed her patient.

Lily’s mouth opened in a silent cry.

Eileen frowned.

Severus raised Lily’s hand to his lips and gave it a gentle kiss after she fell back against the pillows with a loud cry of victory.

“WWWAAA!”

“WWWAAA!”

“WWWAAA!”

Lily became Severus’s focus of attention for a moment as he frowned at her and used a cloth beside her nest to blot her sweat-slicked forehead while she fought to regain the color that her exertion had drained from her face.

“WWWAAA!”

“WWWAAA!”

“WWWAAA!”

Over the deafening cries of the three wailing newborns, the midwife happily announced, “Three healthy little boys!”

Severus blinked in shock as the midwife handed the last baby up to his mother.

Lily smiled happily as she sat up and reached out her trembling arms to take her youngest, smallest triplet from the midwife.

“Goodness, Severus.” Eileen commented with a proud grin as she glanced around and admired her new grandsons.

Lily laughed happily at the dark-haired little boy who squirmed in her arms, but Severus felt dizzy as he contemplated reality.

In less than twenty-four hours, Severus Snape had gone from being the father of one son to being the father of four.

Chapter 30 - Garden of Snapes

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The midwife's assistants tended the wailing triplets while Eileen left the room to answer Harry when he cooed from his nursery.

Severus kept glancing over at his newborns but his attention remained on Lily as he helped the midwife with his lover's immediate postpartum care.

Lily clutched onto her alpha as the midwife eased the afterbirth from her womb.

Severus frowned as she once again nuzzled into the crook of his neck with an exhausted whimper.

After the birth of the Snape triplets had officially concluded, the midwife offered to clean Lily with a spell, but Severus lifted his darling into his arms.

"Cleanse her nest instead." He nodded stoically at the midwife, "I'll see to her."

Severus wrapped one of the cleaner sheets around his lover's bottom while he carried her into the bathroom.

Lily used what little strength she had left to drape her arms over Severus's shoulders as she leaned her head against his chest and sighed.

He kept a careful hold on Lily while he filled the bathtub with warm water.

Once the tub had been readied, Severus used his free hand to pull a jar of witch hazel bath salts out of the nearby cabinet.

He added them to the water before he removed the sheet from Lily and very tenderly sat his beloved down in her bath.

After a long, grueling labour, Lily sighed peacefully as she let her head rest against the porcelain wall of the tub while Severus began to lovingly wash her.

The lavender soap that he used was as gentle as his touch.

Lily drew in a deep breath as Severus massaged the aches and soreness from her body, careful to painstakingly give his mate the utmost amount of extra care.

When it came time to clean her womanhood, Lily groaned as she moved onto her knees in the water.

Severus let her lean on him as he slipped his hands down and gently washed his wife.

“I love you, Sev.....” Lily whispered as she laid against him.

“.....And I love you, Lily.” Severus confessed in a low purr as he kissed his bride’s wet hair.

Their triplets’ impatient cries interrupted their peaceful moment.

“WWWAAAA!”

“WWWAAAA!”

When Severus felt his mate’s nipples leak onto his chest, a stroke of urgency gripped his heart, but Lily sighed.

“I don’t want to leave the tub.” She frowned as Severus pulled away.

He blinked at her for a moment before he replied, “.....Then you won’t.”

Lily pouted as Severus raised his wand and vanished the filth from the water with a stroke of his wrist.

He made sure the temperature in Lily’s bath stayed the same soothing level of perfect warmth as he added a bit more of the witch hazel salts before he turned and left the room.

Lily smiled brightly when Severus returned seconds later carrying two of the crying triplets in his arms.

“WWWAAA!”

“WWWAAA!”

The midwife followed behind him with the third baby.

Lily sat up in the tub and happily took her two little ones from Severus to settle them against her full breasts.

Their hungry cries quickly quieted into content little snuffles as they found their food source.

“What am I to do with the third?” Lily frowned while she watched Severus take their youngest baby from the midwife, who continued to wail in neglect.

“WWWAAAAA!”

“WWWAAAAA!”

“It gets a bit tricky with three!” The midwife laughed, “There are several different ways to approach this, Mrs. Snape, but most omegas will express their milk for storage, since three can’t nurse naturally at once.”

Severus blinked at the midwife as the woman nodded at him and smiled, “That means that Daddy can play a more active role during feedings.”

The first day of Harry's life had been a learning experience for Severus and Lily.

The first day of the triplets' lives also proved to be a time of education.

Eileen briefly brought Harry in to look at his newborn brothers, which he did, with curious blinks and one chubby fist in his mouth.

When Lily wasn't napping, she had two of her babies snuggled against her while the midwife instructed her and Severus.

There were no breast pumps available in the wizarding world.

However, a few different spells did exist to assist a new mother with milk expression and storage.

Glad to use her magic again, Lily gave them all a try under the midwife's watchful instruction.

Lily felt fortunate that her husband was a Potioneer by trade.

Severus kept an ample supply of sterile, glass jars on hand, which she and the triplets would need to use.

Later that evening, Severus sat beside his beautiful wife an hour after the midwife left.

Eileen read to Harry in the nursery while Severus and Lily cuddled their newborns in her nest.

Lily nursed two of the babies while Severus held the youngest triplet in his arms.

She smiled as she watched Severus give their littlest pup a tiny bottle filled with her milk.

It amused Lily to see the soft look of fascination on her alpha's face as his newborn greedily drained the bottle's contents.

".....Sev?" Lily asked.

She barely had the heart to interrupt the tender moment, but she felt a strong desire to reach out to her lover in the happy afterglow of new motherhood.

"Yes?" Severus asked as he started slightly and looked over, ".....What's the matter? Are you alright?"

"I'm fine.....just watching you." Lily answered with a smile.

Severus frowned before she went on, "It's kind of lovely isn't it? Feeding them?"

“It’s.....” Severus paused as he thought of a dignified way to answer,
“.....It’s.....interesting.”

Lily laughed at her husband but he added, “....I never had the chance with Harry.”

“Well, there was never any real need.....I didn’t have any problems nursing him. One isn’t too much to handle.” Lily yawned.

The look of concern that Severus gave her, with his face twisted in anguish and his brow furrowed, had Lily responding defensively, “I’m fine, Sev! I’ve napped some today, I’m alright.”

“You need a good night’s sleep.” Severus quipped.

Lily flashed him a wry smile as she glanced at their babies and chuckled, “I don’t think that’s going to happen anytime soon.”

“Don’t worry, my love.” Severus promised Lily, “I’ll see that you get your rest.”

“.....What about you?” Lily chided as she smiled at Severus.

He gazed at his beautiful flower for a moment as he paused to appreciate how ethereal Lily looked despite her ordeal.

Her skin glowed radiantly, her red hair seemed more vibrant, and her emerald eyes danced brightly with a new mother’s hope.

Severus’s mouth fell open but he lost his words.

“.....Sev?” Lily blinked.

His last concern was himself.

A good alpha put his family first.

“.....Names.” Severus murmured once he regained his ability to speak in the blinding light of Lily’s beauty.

“.....What?” Lily blinked.

“.....Our sons need names.” Severus nodded, “They’ve been with us for a day now. We have to be careful how we decide though, so we don’t mix them up.”

Lily looked a little embarrassed for a moment before she sighed and admitted, “We haven’t really discussed names, have we?”

“No, but I believe that the time has come.” Severus nodded.

“Well.....” Lily said as she sighed again, “Do you have any ideas?”

When Severus frowned at her, Lily laughed.

After a brief silence, she spoke, “Let’s see....there’s three of them. Why don’t we choose a family name for the first and second....then for the third one....”

“.....We could name the third one after an ingredient in the fertility potion.” Severus suggested.

“That’s fair.” Lily nodded in agreement, “What went into the potion anyway?”

“Lavender, chaste berry, thyme, gold, silver, cohosh, cinnamon, yarrow, and basil.” Severus explained.

Lily blinked, “Well.....there certainly aren’t very many options there! Shall we go with Basil Yarrow, then?”

“I think Basil Yarrow Snape is a fine name.” Severus nodded as he looked down at the baby in his arms.

“That’s good then, he’ll be called Basil. He was the last one out, that’s how we’ll remember.” Lily nodded.

Severus fell silent as he looked down at baby Basil but Lily went on, “Now that we’ve decided the youngest one’s name, Sev.....I picked ‘Harry’, so I’ll let you name the firstborn of the triplets.”

“I’m supposed to use a family name?” Severus asked.

“You don’t have to if you don’t want to.” Lily shrugged.

“No, it’s not a problem. I’d like to pass my grandfather’s and my great-grandfather’s names onto him. We’ll call him Credence Leofric.” Severus nodded.

“Credence Leofric Snape.” Lily smiled, “I like it.”

“What about the middle triplet?” Severus asked as he looked at the baby feeding on Lily’s left breast.

“Credence is the largest, remember that.” He said as he nodded at the infant on her right.

“I’d like to name this one after my father.” Lily said with a smile as she looked down at the unnamed baby, “Dad’s name is Reginald Sterling, so we’ll call him Sterling Reginald....Sterling Reginald Snape, how’s that?”

Severus nodded, “Credence, Sterling, and Basil.”

“Harry’s brothers.” Lily smiled.

“Our sons.” Severus replied with a purr as he leaned over and kissed his wife gently on the lips.

Eileen brought Harry in to tell his parents and brothers good night briefly before she settled the eldest Snape child into his cot for the evening.

After the triplets all fell asleep, Severus and Lily deftly laid each one down in the extended bassinet that stood in their bedroom.

While the babies slept, Severus helped his wife crawl back into her nest before he joined her.

Husband and wife quickly settled into each other's embrace after a harrowing but joyous day.

Lily's belly remained rounded as she turned towards Severus and cuddled against him, but that made his gaze even gentler as he admired her in the darkness of their room.

Severus raised a hand and gently stroked Lily's cheek with his fingers as she gave him a tired smile.

She saw a thousand sentiments in Severus's black eyes as he stared at her, yet he voiced none of them.

Out of fear of waking the babies and breaking his own heart, instead of speaking his thoughts, Severus moved towards Lily on the pillow and captured her lips in a deep, sentimental kiss.

It wasn't charged by sexuality and that made their affection all the more intimate as Lily put her hands on Severus's shoulders.

He held her face in one palm while his other gently pressed her against him.

In their darkened bedroom, with their newborns asleep, the only sound that broke the silence of Lily's nest was the noise of her and Severus's blissful kissing.

Severus felt determined to take away his beloved's pains and soothe her heart with the knowledge that he loved her, unconditionally, irreversibly, immutably.

Lily was revered by her alpha and she was spoiled about it too.

Knowing full well that she had Severus's heart, mind, body, and soul, Lily allowed her exhaustion to claim her as she pulled away from Severus's kiss to lay on his shoulder.

Severus was fatigued himself, but that didn't stop him from gazing at his sleeping wife for a few moments before he closed his eyes.

Lily had already fallen into a deep slumber.

Severus had just entered his own dreams when the unsettling interruption came-

"WWWAAAAA!"

"WWWWWWAAAAA!"

Severus and Lily both opened their eyes wide as one baby started to squall.

Their hearts clenched as the triplet's brothers woke and eagerly joined his protest seconds later.

“WWWWAAAA!”

“WWWWAAAA!”

The tired new parents looked at each other in the darkness as they contemplated their new world.

Caring for three at once would be a different sort of challenge for Mr. and Mrs. Snape.

Chapter 31 - Life with Four

Thank you for reading! Please let me know if you enjoy! I don't own any of Harry Potter!
Updates every Saturday!

Sleep, eat, change, eat, sleep.

Sleep, eat, change, eat, sleep.

Sleep.....

Eat...

Change?

During the first month of the triplets' existence, the Snape household hummed along on a day to day basis of organized chaos.

Credence, Sterling, and Basil kept their mother's breasts sore and their father's arms tired as Severus and Lily spent every waking second and a good portion of each night tending to their newborns' needs.

Eileen became Harry's primary caregiver for a short while, although Severus and Lily took turns looking after Harry each day when they handed Severus's mother a newborn or two.

Severus fell behind on his research.

The apothecary visits that he had promised himself he would conduct every two or three days dwindled to once a week.

Eileen proved to be the cheerleader of the household.

She took over most of the cooking, the cleaning, and whenever she saw Severus or Lily frown, she reminded them of how quickly the children would grow.

Eileen spoke wisely.

Despite the exhaustion, the pain, and the struggle that life with newborn triplets presented, as the babies entered their second month of life and began to age, Lily couldn't help but feel the slightest bit of sadness fluttering in her heart.

Severus noticed an overwhelming amount of relief when his youngest sons started to sleep through the night, but he frowned at the melancholy look on Lily's face when they woke from that first morning of blissfully uninterrupted rest.

"Lily.....?" He asked as he narrowed his eyes at her in concern, "What's wrong, my love?"

“They didn’t wake me last night.” Lily pouted, “The babies didn’t need me.”

“Isn’t that a comfort?” Severus asked, “You and I haven’t had a solid night of rest for weeks. Didn’t it feel lovely?”

“.....It did.” Lily admitted distantly before she rose from her nest and padded over to peer down into the triplets’ bassinet.

Severus frowned as he stood to his feet and glided over to hold his wife’s waist from behind.

He wasn’t sure if the hormones were responsible for Lily’s sudden sadness or not.

Regardless, he found himself filled with the need to soothe her.

Severus nuzzled into Lily’s crimson tresses while he kissed her ear and whispered, “They’re ours, Lily, the triplets and Harry. You’re their mother and I’m their father, that’s never going to change.”

Lily didn’t say anything in response as she turned to snuggle against Severus in the moments before the babies would surely wake.

He had done a fine job of calming his mate and reassuring her, but in his fleeting feeling of triumph, Severus got a little ahead of himself.

Riding on the wave of tender emotion that his words had brought, he lifted his hands and cradled his mate against him while he stroked her back and drawled, “Besides, my love, imagine what it will be like when they all go to Hogwarts.”

Normally a man of relatively few words, in that instant, with Lily in his arms, grieving the first days of their children’s lives, Severus chose the wrong thing to tell his sensitive omega.

He knew that he had made a mistake when Lily pulled away and stared at him with her green eyes widened in horror.

“Lily.....” Severus said tensely.

“OH, SEV!” Lily wailed as she started to sob.

The cries of his distressed wife sounded an alarm that sent three loud sirens screaming in response as each of the triplets woke to their mother’s woeful wails.

“WWWWWWAAAAA!”

“WWWAAAA!”

“WWWWWAAA!”

As Severus cradled his wife, he looked over her shoulder and sighed at his crying pups.

Why hadn’t he just kept his mouth shut?

Eileen became an immeasurable source of help to the family, even after the triplets celebrated three months in the world.

By then, the family had established somewhat regular routines.

Severus and Lily had become more experienced with caring for their young multiples, Harry, and running their household.

Severus began making regular visits to the apothecary. There were a few times that he stayed at the shop for several hours to oversee things and assist his employees.

Eileen and Lily had started to bond.

Since they spent their days looking after four young little ones together, there was plenty of time for sharing experiences, discussing matters, and speaking fondly of Severus.

After she had recovered from the birth itself and the blinding haze of postpartum, Lily was able to enjoy her new home at last.

She dearly loved the nest that Severus had built for her.

Full of inviting spaces, room for the children to play, and the softest materials used on every bit of fabric, the Snape estate was the perfect place to raise a happy, healthy family.

While Lily cuddled Sterling and Credence one morning, Harry clutched onto her leg as they both gazed out of the glass window that showcased the conservatory.

“Look, Mummy!” Harry cried as he pointed straight ahead.

“That’s right, darling.” Lily said as she smiled down at her little boy, “Mummy and Daddy are going to have a garden there. We’ll grow lots of things and brew lots of potions. Then when you’re old enough, we’ll teach you all about it! Does that sound fun?”

Lily smiled at Harry as he blinked up at her curiously and put a tiny hand on his chest.

Lily opened her mouth to speak again, but Eileen called out from the kitchen across the vast first floor, “Breakfast is ready!”

Harry’s eyes widened and Lily mirrored his wondrous expression.

“Shall we go and see what Gram-Gram’s made?!” She asked Harry excitedly.

Sterling and Credence whined in her arms as she bounced them gently, but Harry broke out into a wide smile before he let go of Lily and ran on his chubby little legs across the living area towards the kitchen where Eileen, Basil, and the food waited.

Lily turned to join her other sons and mother-in-law, but before she did, she cast one last look back at the empty conservatory to dream.

It made her heart glow to imagine gardening with Severus while their children played at their feet.

It haunted Severus for weeks that he had inadvertently made Lily cry.

His innocent mistake kept him awake at night.

As he watched his mate work so hard to mother their children, he sought to show his gratitude for his wife's struggles and efforts.

On his way to an apothecary visit one morning, he stopped inside a particular jewelry shop in Hogsmeade for a few, brief moments.

After he left his own establishment early that afternoon, Severus picked up a small package from that jewelry shop and headed home.

Inside the package sat a little box that Severus kept discreetly concealed in his robes until the evening came.

Lily went for a shower while the rest of the Snape family slept. It was then that Severus seized his opportunity.

He glided into the bathroom, stripped out of his clothing and sat that small box on the edge of the porcelain counter before he joined his wife in their massive, stone shower.

"Sev!" Lily cried in surprise when she saw her naked alpha step into the warm, pouring water with her, "I-I thought you were still downstairs working on your report for Slughorn."

Severus and Lily hadn't made love since the triplets' birth, not that that mattered to him.

However, it did hurt him deeply that Lily seemed ashamed to stand in front of him nude.

He frowned as he watched her try to cover as much of her bare body with her hands and arms as possible.

".....Why are you hiding from me, Lily?" Severus asked her flatly while the water ran over them both.

Lily laughed his inquiry off, but Severus saw the glint of shame that passed through her green eyes as she tucked a strand of soaked, red hair behind her ear and replied, "I-I'm not hiding."

"You're covering yourself with your hands." Severus frowned as his gaze flickered over her.

"Oh, I just had an.....um, an itch." Lily lied as she laughed nervously and gently scratched her skin with her nails.

Severus stepped towards her.

She looked up at him pleadingly, but he chose to forgo words and soothe his nervous mate with a kiss as he closed his eyes and crushed his lips against Lily's.

Lily seemed content to busy her husband with something else besides his pursuit of viewing her bare form, though to her dismay, he didn't fall into the intoxicating trap of her addictive kiss.

"Lily.....?" Severus asked in his low drawl as he pulled back and gazed down at her with his black gaze as soft as raven's feathers, "I want to see you."

"The changes with Harry were nothing....." Lily warned her husband, "It's.....it's worse now, Sev."

The softness faded slightly from Severus's gaze as he purred down at his omega in an authoritative, low tone and asked, "Are you.....refusing your alpha, Lily? I want to see you, my love."

Lily's cheeks flushed scarlet under the low rumble of Severus's voice and the piercing stare in his black eyes.

She whimpered slightly as she pulled her hands away and let Severus lead her out of the water to have a good look at her body.

Her second pregnancy had indeed left its scars.

Her breasts remained heavy, her hips and thighs bore little, crinkly lines, and just underneath her navel sat a small puff that served as evidence of her motherhood.

Severus appreciated every fine change in his mate's body, not because they told the world that she was no longer perfect, but because they told the world that she was his and that was what made Lily perfect in Severus's eyes.

No lingerie, no statements, no poses, nothing could be more beguiling to Severus Snape than to know that Lily completely and utterly belonged to him.....as he belonged to her.

Lily braced for Severus to scowl or turn away.

She almost flinched when he kissed her instead.

His lips were soft, his touch was tender, and as he pulled away, she mourned the loss of their connection as he nipped down her throat, across her collarbone, and over her breasts.

Lily leaned against the stone shower wall for support while Severus flicked his tongue briefly over her nipples, purposely resisting the urge to suck, before his mouth journeyed down to her abused belly.

She let her hands idly ghost through Severus's soaked, black hair as he took the time to nuzzle that adorable puff on her tummy and kiss over each of those subtle lines.

He had lulled Lily into a state of steamy relaxation when she suddenly felt his head dip obscenely lower.

His breath landed on her inner thigh and she gasped, “S-Sev.....?”

Lily felt the tip of his hooked nose nudge against the very outside of her womanhood and her heart clenched in anticipation.

“S.....Sev?” She squeaked.

After months of necessary neglect, the deep, throaty sigh that escaped Lily’s mouth as Severus began to devour her womanhood was fortunately drowned out by the noise of the shower.

Severus attacked his lover with the intent to bring her incredible pleasure as he lifted one of her thighs and threw it over his shoulder in hopes of consuming her easier.

It was difficult for Lily not to feel confident in her new body with Severus worshipping her center and squeezing her scars in his greedy hands.

With a great shout that was barely concealed by the downpour of the water, Lily finally found her release as Severus licked her through the spasm, forcing the bundle of nerves at her crest to twist and pulse under his tongue’s assault.

Severus and Lily forgot all about the task of getting clean.

Severus forgot all about the box that sat waiting on the bathroom counter as Lily pulled on his shoulders to help him up.

“S-Sev, come on,” Lily chuckled as she tugged on him gently, “I want a kiss.”

Severus declined his omega’s request.

He understood that he needed to wait for that bundle of nerves to still, but he licked his lips impatiently as he felt Lily fidget anxiously underneath his hands.

To pass the time, he reached over and gave her a wicked bite on her inner thigh.

“AAH! Sev, I’m serious.” Lily whimpered while she batted away her secret, selfish wishes, “I want a kiss.”

She was ready again and Severus knew it.

Her body would carry her to happiness once more if he could show it the way.

Wordlessly, he dove forward again and plunged his face back into his wife’s aching, wet center.

He had thoughtfully cast a nonverbal silencing charm in the second before he collided with Lily.

The scream that tore from her throat made her infinitely glad that he did.

How was he supposed to tend his lover like a good alpha if the pleased screams that he drew from her throat woke their pups?

Chapter 32 - An Important Meeting

Thank you for reading! Please let me know if you enjoy! I don't own any of Harry Potter!
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One morning, while the rest of the Snape household slept peacefully, Severus stood in front of his cauldron, deep within the basement of his family's dwelling.

His brewing room was exactly the kind of space that he had dreamed of having for his work. The room was large enough to move around in, held rows and rows of ingredients, boasted a stand for him to leave a book open to his view, and even had a soundproof ceiling to ensure the noise of fizzing potions wouldn't disturb his mate, mother, and pups.

Severus gazed down into the shimmering gold contents of the cauldron with a subtle smirk.

Excitement rippled in his veins as he reduced the heat underneath the cauldron, retrieved the parchment that held his formula, bottled a small vial of the potion, and prepared to leave for his presentation.

One week earlier, Severus had written to Slughorn about his great success with the fertility potion that he had formulated.

Slughorn had taken it upon himself to arrange a meeting with the Ministry's Committee for Potions, during which Severus had planned to present his newest discovery.

Severus picked up his bag that morning and headed up the brewing room's steps with a heavy sigh of restrained nervousness.

He didn't mind speaking in front of a classroom filled with students, but a group of experienced potioners?

Severus opened the door at the top of the basement stairs.

He blinked when the welcoming smell of sizzling bacon and freshly made pancakes assaulted his nostrils.

"Good morning, Sev." Lily smiled tiredly from where she stood in the kitchen.

She waved her wand around to hurriedly prepare a full breakfast for her alpha.

"Lily.....?" Severus frowned as he furrowed his brow, "What are you doing up this early? The sun hasn't even risen yet.....I told you not to trouble yourself."

"It's no trouble at all to see my husband off." Lily smiled while she used her magic to serve Severus a plate of food and a glass of orange juice as he sat down at their large dining table.

He understood his need to arrive at the meeting on time, but he politely waited for Lily to come and join him with a plate for herself before he began eating.

Lily grinned while she watched Severus greedily devour the food that she had prepared for him.

Severus's anxiety about his presentation and the shock of the early morning made him forget himself as he savored the crispy bacon and the sweetness of Lily's fluffy pancakes.

When she giggled at her lover's momentarily barbaric table manners, his black eyes darted over to her in mortification.

"Forgive me....." He murmured as he cleared his throat and wiped his mouth with a napkin.

"There's nothing to forgive, Sev." Lily said with a gentle smile as she reached out and took his free hand in her own, "I knew that you'd be hungry.....I'm glad that you're enjoying it."

Severus gazed at Lily with his black eyes soft in admiration.

How fortunate he was to have an omega so mindful of his needs!

"It's delicious, my love." Severus praised Lily as he leaned forward and gave her a quick kiss.

Lily giggled as he hurriedly snarfed down the rest of his breakfast, drank his orange juice, and stood from the table.

Severus blinked as Lily stood with him and pressed a deep, loving kiss to his lips.

"For luck~." Lily whispered as she pulled back from Severus with her emerald eyes half-lidded.

Severus's dark stare smouldered as he gazed down at his omega intently and leaned his forehead against hers, "I don't need luck, Lily....I only need you."

Lily laughed as Severus allowed himself the luxury of pulling her towards him until he could feel her soft curves pressed against his chest.

"It's such a shame that you have to leave so soon." Lily pouted as she sighed. The movement made her heavy breasts heave and suddenly, Severus's dark gaze no longer focused on her face.

He made his best effort at restraint as Lily lifted his hands from her waist and placed them where she wanted to be touched.

"We could have had such a lovely morning together, Sev....." Lily mused as she let go of her alpha's hands.

She smirked as she watched Severus's mouth fall open while he tenderly lifted the crushing weight of her full breasts in his palms.

Heavy with a night's production and eager to respond to the triplets' cries which would surely come at any minute, Lily's body was overly receptive to the gentle brushes of Severus's fingertips through the thin fabric of her nightdress.

When his thumb rolled over a fattened nipple, Lily gasped.

Severus's dark eyes widened at the sound from his mate and the moisture that wet the pad of his finger.

His gaze flickered up to meet Lily's as she whimpered quietly.

Mr. and Mrs. Snape silently understood each other's wants, but as Lily reached to pull the straps of her nightdress down, Severus frowned and answered, ".....No."

"Why not?" Lily pouted.

"The children.....I'll....." Severus stammered as Lily pinched the thin strap of her nightdress with two fingers and let it slip over one shoulder.

"I'll....." Severus whispered.

He barely spoke as Lily did the same with her other strap and let her breasts spill into his view, ".....be late."

"There's plenty of bottles, love." Lily reassured her alpha with a wicked smile before she sat back down in her chair and sighed again, "I have enough for Daddy to have a sip or two."

Severus didn't need his omega to offer such a precious gift twice.

It almost startled Lily how fast he knelt in front of her.

She gasped and let her hands knot in his black hair as he happily latched onto her largest side for a moment.

Severus was mindful not to gorge himself and rob his sons.

He took only a mouthful, maybe two, before he switched to the other side.

A few seconds later, Lily got a taste of her own milk as Severus kissed her lips gently before he apparated away.

Mr. Snape arrived at the Ministry, full of love, food, and his wife's warm milk.

That feeling of satisfaction sent affectionate fire roaring in his heart.

At home, Mrs. Snape began to walk upstairs as soon as she heard the shadow of a whimper come from the nursery, ready to tend her babies and arrogantly pleased that she had been able to nurture her alpha so well that morning.

Severus stood in the black robes that Lily had made for him while Slughorn argued with the Committee for Potions.

“My former student here, Severus Snape, is the most brilliant potioneer of his generation!” Slughorn insisted as he scowled at the bald man who sat across from them on the other end of the room, “His detailed account of how this particular potion....was used.....is on the parchment in front of you! Perhaps the evidence hasn’t been replicated just yet, but surely the healthy arrival of triplets after the potion’s utilization are proof enough to at least warrant further investigation!”

“I would advise you, Professor Slughorn, to mind where you are now.” The bald man blinked at Slughorn over the parchment that he scowled at, “We approved Mr. Snape’s cure for Dragon Pox after it had been demonstrated on several subjects, not one. Besides, an omega bearing triplets is not an out of place occurrence. This parchment states that the subject in question was in heat when the potion was used. How can we say that these three children weren’t born as a natural phenomenon, with no connection whatsoever to Mr. Snape’s potion?”

Severus and Slughorn narrowed their eyes as debateful chatter erupted behind the bald man until he held a hand up for silence.

“That being said,” The bald man continued as he stared down at the parchment, “With Mr. Snape’s previous achievements, the Committee would be willing to conduct several research studies in order to better verify the safety and efficacy of this.....fertility potion. Assuming, of course, that you’re willing to allow us to do so, Mr. Snape?” The bald man asked Severus very seriously.

“Of course.” Severus nodded as he answered in his low drawl, “.....As long as such studies are done humanely with each subject’s consent.”

“There are no ethical mishaps in the Committee for Potions, sir.” The bald man scowled at Severus in offense, “Rest assured, these studies may take some time, but I have no qualms that willing participants will be found. Should this fertility potion that you’ve concocted prove to be a success, then you stand to become an even wealthier wizard.....That’s really quite something for a man of your age.”

Severus nodded quietly until the bald man added, “Tell me, Mr. Snape, how did your wife feel about being the test subject for your potion?”

Severus narrowed his dark eyes as he realized that the bald man threw him a judgemental glare.

Not many people besides Severus understood the fire that resided within Lily.

“.....Are you suggesting that I forced my wife to ingest the potion, sir?” Severus asked in a deep growl of a voice, “....Or that I gave it to her without her knowing?”

Slughorn shifted on his feet.

Behind the bald man, several of the committee members looked down at their laps.

The bald man stared at Severus while Severus explained, “I showed the mixture to my wife and she took it upon herself to drink a ladleful before I had the chance to stop her.....I placed the potion in my mouth as well to ensure that if any unforeseen safety issues with the potion were discovered, I would have to suffer the consequences just as she would.”

“Then you swallowed the fertility potion yourself, Mr. Snape?” The bald man asked.

“More or less.....” Severus drawled while he tried not to smirk as he thought about exactly how he and Lily had used the potion on the night that the triplets had been conceived.

“What’s that supposed to mean?” The bald man snapped, “If you ever hope to become a Potions Master without spending a lifetime in academia, then you’ll need to have more than one creation under your belt, Mr. Snape. I refuse to run clinical trials on shadowy formulas whose makers refuse to divulge the truth about their application!”

“The truth, sir?” Severus asked as his black eyes glimmered.

“Yes, Mr. Snape, the truth!” The bald man huffed, “List the ways that you and your wife ultimately utilized the potion! Was it only swallowed? Was it dissolved under your tongues? Was it absorbed through the skin? If you’re interested in having studies conducted on this formula, then you must share more details with the committee!”

All of the committee members seated behind the bald man nodded with stern frowns on their faces.

“As I said.....my wife took a swallow from the ladle before I could stop her.” Severus began in a low, cutting voice. The committee members blinked as he went on and allowed his gentle purr to slice through the silence of the room, “I sipped the potion as well. However...it was my tongue and my fingers that sent the concoction directly to her womb.”

Slughorn looked at Severus with wide eyes.

Severus raised his chin ever so slightly while the bald man regarded him with a steely scowl.

The members of the Committee for Potions all had their heads down while they busily cleared their throats and ignored the blushes that covered their cheeks.

“I see, Mr. Snape.” The bald man huffed, “Very well, then. We shall look to begin research studies on your formula within a fortnight. Can you brew a large vat of this potion by then?”

“.....Of course.” Severus confirmed after a moment.

As he and Slughorn left the meeting room, he smirked to himself.

If clinical trials wouldn’t be regarded as substantial evidence to convince the committee about the fertility potion’s usefulness, then he and Lily could always test it again themselves.....

Chapter 33 - Potions Master

Thank you for reading! Please let me know if you enjoy! I don't own any of Harry Potter!
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Finding a plethora of magical alpha omega couples that were trying to conceive and willing to participate in a research study involving an unapproved potion took some time.

Eventually though, the Committee for Potions managed to find a suitable amount of study subjects who suffered from infertility.

While Severus stayed abreast of the results that trickled in over the next year, he and Lily continued to raise their family.

As little Harry started to talk more, the triplets grew as well.

The babies were always eager to smile at their older brother.

Eileen and Lily continued to care for the children, but Lily began a new project with Severus that she often tended to.....the Snape family's garden.

At first it started with only a few pots in the conservatory, each filled with fresh sprouts of several flowers and herbs.

Gradually, those flowers and herbs needed to be transplanted as they grew.

Those few pots became many and the plants inside them eventually thrived to the point that they had to be placed directly in the ground on the backside of the Snapes' property.

Severus and Lily thoroughly enjoyed caring for their garden together.

During the spring, summer, and autumn, they worked to tend the plants while Harry toddled around and stuck his hands into the dirt as his triplet brothers looked on from their enchanted carriers that sat in their parents' line of sight.

Harry was still too young to understand the love between his mother and father, but he blinked up at them curiously every time that he saw them kiss.

Some children his age would have cried at the sight, mistaking their mother and father's interaction as an act of conflict, but Severus and Lily's kisses gave little Harry too much comfort for him to be upset.

Why should he cry when his Mummy and Daddy looked so happy?

The conclusions from the research studies on the fertility potion that Severus had invented proved to be overwhelmingly positive.

The high birth rate of healthy babies born to the study's participants spoke of the formula's safety and efficacy.

Shortly after the results had been completed, Severus attended another meeting with the Committee for Potions where he received a formal offer to have his second creation manufactured and distributed as well.

His patent check for the fertility potion was double that of the payment that he had received for his Dragon Pox cure.

The fertility potion had been viewed by the committee as a luxury item.

In accordance with the fertility potion's approved level of necessity, the committee had sanctioned the mixture to be manufactured and sold by private companies, which would surely result in a higher profit than a life-saving medicine primarily distributed throughout the wizarding world's free healthcare system.

One groundbreaking potion was more than most potioners achieved in a lifetime, but two phenomenal displays of mastery before the age of twenty-five were beyond remarkable.

Severus sat on the sofa one morning, while Credence, Sterling, and Basil all cooed in his lap.

Harry scribbled on a piece of parchment from his seat on the floor.

Severus's eldest son looked up with wide eyes as his mother suddenly came running over with a letter in her hand.

"Severus!" Lily called with an excited smile, "Severus!"

Severus turned around on the sofa with his brow furrowed.

His heart clenched until he saw the glad smile on Lily's face.

It wasn't under any usual circumstance that she called him by his full first name.

"What's the matter?" Severus asked as Lily raced towards him, "What's wrong?"

"Nothing's wrong! Nothing's wrong!" Lily laughed excitedly while she shoved the letter into Severus's hands, "Everything's right! It must be, The Council of Honors has written to you!"

Severus frowned at his mate for a moment before he opened up the letter and removed the parchment from the envelope.

He scowled down at the page while Lily read over his shoulder:

Dear Mr. Severus Snape,

After considering the kind words that your esteemed mentor, Professor Horace Slughorn, has spoken on your behalf and your monumental contributions to the wizarding world as a whole, the Council of High Honors has decided to bestow upon you the honorary title of Potions Master. Your award will be formally granted three weeks from today at 8:00 pm exactly in the banquet hall located on the second level of the Ministry of Magic. Please come accordingly and note that all family members will be welcome at this event.

Sincerely,

Ericswell Seengren, Chairman for the Council of High Honors, Ministry of Magic

The triplets blinked while Harry frowned at the expression of shock on Severus's face and worriedly asked, ".....Daddy?"

Lily clasped her hands over her face as Severus looked up at her with his mouth open and his dark eyes wide.

".....They're going to make me a Potions Master....." He spoke to Lily in a voice barely louder than a whisper.

Lily could no longer contain the pride that she took in her mate's accomplishment as she squealed in excitement and leaned down.

As best she could without getting in her small sons' way, she gave Severus a tight hug.

Credence, Sterling, and Basil patted their mother's arms while Severus eagerly returned his wife's embrace with a gentle purr.

"That's amazing, Sev!" Lily gasped in his ear as they hugged.

Her words put the slightest hint of a blush into her alpha's cheeks.

The award was lovely, but it flustered Severus whenever he heard Lily say that anything about him or anything that he had done was.....amazing~.

Some felt that Severus receiving the title of "Potions Master" was a bit premature due to the fact that his second potion had been tested but not yet marketed or sold

Lily did not share that notion as she walked beside her husband on the night of the council of High Honors' award ceremony.

The Ministry's banquet hall had been filled with various decorations, rows of tables and chairs, and a copious amount of delectable foods.

Severus had invited his mother after he had been assured that childcare would be provided, but Eileen had respectfully declined her son's invitation.

As proud as she was of her only child, Eileen and Severus both shared the trait of not favoring social gatherings.

Severus wore his usual black robes, but he had purchased Lily a fine new dress in a beguiling shade of baby blue that he very much appreciated.

That dress clung to all of Mrs. Snape's new curves in a way that others found tasteful but Severus found arousing.

It was all he could do to keep his hands off of his beautiful mate as he escorted Lily to their seats and helped her into her chair.

Lily's belly had shrunken since the triplets' birth, although her breasts certainly had not.

The adorable bounce that her swollen glands gave as she lowered herself onto her bottom drew Severus's attention for an embarrassingly long second.

"Are you alright, love?" Lily asked as she cleared her throat.

Severus's dark eyes narrowed in embarrassment before his gaze moved up to meet his wife's.

Lily chuckled at the mortified look on her alpha's face, but Severus's humiliation was overcome by admiration as he gazed at his flawless mate.

Mrs. Snape's light blue dress made her crimson hair seem even more red as her green eyes sparkled at him, emeralds highlighted by the porcelain of her fair face.

Severus felt the blood rush to his groin before he took his seat and held Lily's hand in his.

Moments later, a hush fell over the evening's attendees as the Minister for Magic himself walked out onto the small platform at the front of the room and officially opened the award ceremony.

Once the lights in the room had dimmed, Lily let her hand accidentally brush against Severus's groin, which earned her a strangled gasp and a scowl from her alpha.

Severus looked bothered while Lily innocently stared straight ahead.

He huffed to himself as he marveled at his bride's cruelty.

Lily was lucky that Severus couldn't pounce on her where they sat, else he would have had no choice but to punish his bold lover for her audacity.

No one in the room beamed brighter than Lily as the Minister for Magic called out loudly, "SEVERUS SNAPE!"

She abandoned her attempts at teasing Severus as he rose from his chair.

He felt Lily lay a comforting hand on his back as he stepped out from the rows of seats and walked towards the platform at the front of the room.

Severus's face looked pale and tense as he walked up to the Minister for Magic and stood in front of everyone while the leader of Britain's wizarding world addressed him directly, "Severus Snape, in agreement with the Committee for Potions and the Council of High Honors, I hereby grant you the honorary title of Potions Master, under the mutual acknowledgment that you will continue your research to better enhance our world and benefit all those who dwell within it."

"Yes, sir. I will, you have my word." Severus nodded.

The Minister for Magic smiled kindly at Severus as he handed him a very prestigious-looking plaque, clapped him on the shoulder, and spoke to the crowd as he announced him by his new, formal title, "Severus Snape, Potions Master!"

Applause rang out.

Severus resisted the urge to blanch, not used to all of the attention.

As his dark eyes peered through the bright light at the front of the room to land on Lily, everyone but her seemed to fade away.

Severus's chest swelled with pride as he drank in the elated smile on his mate's face and the vigorous clapping of her hands.

Lily was proud of him.

Lily was happy for him.

That was all he needed.

He could ignore the applause and the cheers, it was all unnecessary.

Lily's approval was the only thing that mattered to the newest Potions Master.

After the ceremony concluded, the Snapes were too full of anxious excitement to go straight home.

They chose to apparate to Hogsmeade instead and wander the streets for a bit of fresh air while they chatted with each other.

"I'm so proud of you, Sev!" Lily laughed as she clutched onto Severus's arm.

He had to forcibly bite back the smile that wanted to spread across his lips.

"I'm glad that you're pleased, my love." Severus stoically replied as they walked along, "I expected the findings of the research study to be positive, but I hadn't anticipated

this.....Slughorn mentioned that it may happen one day....perhaps...but not now.”

Lily paused to admire a beautiful necklace that hung on a mannequin in a window and Severus swept up behind her to purr in her ear, “Has that caught your eye?.....I can purchase it for you first thing in the morning.”

“I don’t even know how much it costs, Sev.” Lily laughed quietly while she shivered as the breath from her husband’s low rumble tickled her.

“Price isn’t important.....You’re my world, Lily, let me give you a gift.....We have the second patent check and the apothecary is thriving.” Severus purred as he noticed the subtle blush that tinted Lily’s cheeks under the streetlamp.

“I don’t deserve a gift, Sev!” Lily laughed again. Her green eyes shimmered as she looked at Severus and spoke, “This is your achievement, not mine. You’re the one who should have a gift. Let me give you one instead! Tell me.....what would you like?”

As Severus stared at Lily, her blush deepened at the smouldering intensity of his dark gaze.

He stepped closer and devoured her with his black stare as his eyes roamed over her hair, her curves, the exposed bits of leg and shoulder that showed her flawless flesh.....

His request was simple as he spoke in one low growl, “.....A daughter.”

A daughter.

Lily’s eyes widened.

“A.....a daughter, Sev?” She asked.

Mr. and Mrs. Snape utilized the back alley of Hogsmeade for some makeshift privacy.

Lily’s beautiful dress had its seams ripped as Severus wrenched her legs around his waist while she clawed his trousers open.

Their coupling against the back wall of the women’s shop was quick but intense and before they had caught their breath, Severus apparated them home to escape to their own bed for another round.

Spent but somehow rested, when Lily woke the next morning, ready to feed her milk to Severus’s sons, she blinked and sat up.

A bittersweet smile curled her lips.

Severus’s place in the bed next to her was empty

It was late, he had already left to see to his day’s work.

However, on Severus's pillow, the beautiful necklace that Lily had admired in the shop window the night before sat waiting patiently for its new owner.

Chapter 34 - Thrills

Thank you for reading! Please let me know if you enjoy! I don't own any of Harry Potter!
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Lily felt such a thrill thrumming through her blood that she could barely contain herself the next day.

That evening, Severus continued to ride his wave of victory into his dreams with his beloved nestled on his shoulder.

The mental and emotional exhaustion of the previous night left him drained to such an extent that he slumbered without moving while Lily smiled down at him and let her fingers comb gently through his black hair.

She sighed to herself as she replayed Severus's spoken wish in her mind.

Harry and the triplets were still young, they could wait for some time before they tried to add a small princess to their family, but that didn't make Severus's request any less exciting for Lily.

Few things made an omega in love happier than hearing their alpha ask for more pups.

Severus only knew bliss when he woke to Lily's soft lips pressing over his as she climbed on top of him the next morning.

"My love.....?" Severus asked in a velvety rumble, his low voice thickened by his night of deep, restful sleep.

"Hey, Sev~." Lily cooed to him as she let her hands run over his abdomen and chest.

Lily boldly sat her rounded bottom right on top of her alpha's hips.

Severus's demanding omega had his manhood responding instantly as his arousal slapped against her plump cheek.

The sound widened Severus's dark eyes as Lily let her roving hands pause on his chest while she leaned down to kiss his collarbone.

His beloved flower's eagerness struck a deep, primal chord with his alpha instincts.

Lily squeaked as Severus narrowed his eyes at her and grabbed her plump breasts in his hands.

He held them possessively, like a dragon guarding its treasure, as he rolled her over so that he was on top.

“That’s better, my love.....” Severus purred, “I’m the alpha, you look up to me.”

“B-But.....” Lily whimpered.

Warm wetness erupted in the lower part of her center as she watched Severus pinch her fat nipples until drops of creamy milk moistened his fingertips.

“I’ll give, Lily~.” Severus promised her in a low growl. It was all he could do to hold himself back long enough to ask, “.....If you’ll take?”

Lily cried out as Severus dove forward.

His fingers clutched her curves while his mouth latched onto her.

Her legs turned to liquid and Severus found his way between them.

As they coupled together, Lily fantasized about building her next nest as much as her mate’s touch.

When their releases came close, Severus grit his teeth while the rolls of his hips became more violent.

Lily wrapped her legs around him and pushed her heel into the center of his bottom to urge him in deeper.

Mrs. Snape had discovered during her time with her mate that she did not appreciate being empty very much.

Lily was a fortunate omega though.

Her husband always satisfied her desires.

While Lily and Severus continued to raise their young family, oversee their apothecary, and make a few public appearances at the Council’s request in response to Severus’s recent accomplishment, Mrs. Snape tried to adopt a more relaxed attitude about adding to their family than she had shown previously.

It would happen when it would happen, Lily pacified herself with that conclusion.

Severus didn’t pester her about anything.

He loved her and their sons, along with Eileen.....and the Snapes were all very happy.

Although, as the triplets celebrated their first birthday and Harry celebrated his third some months later, Lily decided that a more relaxed attitude didn’t mean that she couldn’t make a

small bit of effort.

She resisted the urge to use Severus's fertility potion again in favor of allowing her body to dictate when the time would be right to add another child to their brood.

Instead of turning to magic, Lily listened to her mother and pursued a more muggle approach in hopes of bringing Severus the daughter that he craved.

A new shop had opened in Diagon Alley a few months earlier.

Lily hadn't yet visited to browse through the goods offered there, but one morning while Eileen looked after the children for an hour, that was exactly what she did.

The shop's windows only showed jewelry on display, but the sign on the door told everyone about the hushed offerings held within:

An Alpha's Pleasant End

No bell chimed on the door when Lily entered the shop, but as the customers inside glanced over at her suspiciously, she felt grateful for the small amount of privacy that the silence had attempted to offer.

All around the shop, jewelry and lingerie of every type was on full display for the customers' viewing.

Jewelry hung on mannequins that were clad in scraps of lacey clothing so enticing that shy schoolboys may have fainted at first sight.

Lily generally wore nightdresses and robes.

She had never been one to dress in outlandish, frivolous things, but when her mother had encouraged her to buy some new items just for herself, she couldn't help but let her mind wander.

It was Mrs. Snape's hope that if she reconnected with her body, then her body may respond well.

Perhaps another heat would come and shortly after it, a baby girl?

Lily felt her cheeks tint just looking at the obscene but beautiful products that the store sold. She found herself mesmerized by the vast array of gleaming garters, embellished bras, and intricate panties when a voice called out behind her, "Are you looking for anything particular, dear?!"

Lily whirled around to see a very friendly shopkeep staring at her with a kind smile as she shook her head and replied, "O-Oh, no, I'm just browsing. I've never really.....bought anything like this before."

The shopkeep smiled at her reluctant customer as she added, "Ah.....I see. Is there someone in particular that you're shopping for today? Perhaps I could make a suggestion....."

“No, actually, I’m.....I’m shopping for myself!” Lily explained with a nervous laugh.

“For yourself, dear?” The shopkeep blinked.

“Um.....” Lily said with a chuckle of pure embarrassment, “Yes, I know it sounds silly, but I have four children and.....my husband would like more, but I’m just.....I haven’t been able to give him any yet. My mother urged me to focus on myself, on feeling like me again, so that’s what I’ve come to do. Sorry to tell you all that, I must sound ridiculous.”

“Not at all, my dear!” The shopkeep said with a bright smile, “You look awfully young to be a mother of four! No wonder you’re feeling a bit out of touch! We have women all the time that walk through our door with similar requests.....If I may, I think that there are several things that I could show you?”

Lily smiled kindly and nodded at the helpful shopkeep.

As the two women continued their chat, the store’s employee walked Lily towards a particular part of the shop that held items which the woman felt may be of interest to her young customer.....

The shopkeeper did an excellent job of guiding Mrs. Snape to some sumptuous new garments.

Late one evening, Lily’s moment to enjoy her purchase finally arrived.

Eileen and the children slept while Severus finished cleaning up a mess at the apothecary.

Lily lit a few fragranced candles in the bedroom that she shared with Severus while her mother’s words echoed back to her.....

Take some time for yourself, sweetheart. If you love yourself properly, then your body will let your alpha love you. Nothing will hasten a heat faster than that feeling of confidence that a woman needs in herself.

With the room glowing pleasantly, Lily took the time to sit down at her large vanity and slowly brush her hair.

She closed her eyes as she focused on the feel of the bristles gliding through her crimson strands.

Once her red hair was fluffy from its grooming, she slipped out of her robes for the day, retrieved the box that she had kept hidden from Severus, and opened its lid.

She blinked at the pieces that she had bought from the lingerie store before she began to dress herself in them one by one.

A bra made from detailed lace with buttery soft lining on the inside that had been guaranteed not to irritate her working breasts.....

A pleasantly deceptive garter belt that widely covered the majority of the marks that Severus's pups had left on her tummy.....

Lastly, Lily smirked to herself as she stepped into her new panties.

As she pulled the thin string in the back to rest between the cheeks of her bottom, she wondered what Severus would have to say if he ever saw her in them.

The question left her mind quickly as she slipped into her decadent, silk robe.

Mrs. Snape hadn't bought those things for Mr. Snape.....she had bought them for herself.

Severus would surely be at the apothecary for quite some time.

Lily sighed as she laid down on the bed to settle back against the pillows and blankets.

Slowly, her knees parted as her hand dipped down across her abdomen.

She closed her eyes and imagined Severus in front of her.

She could languidly daydream, there, alone in her bedroom.

She could take however long she wanted, she could-

Lily let out a breath when her fingers crossed under the hem of her panties and ghosted over the nest of curls that hid her womanhood.

She wriggled her hips gently as she began to explore herself while her mind showed her the loving look that Severus often gave her.

That look made her want more.....which she felt was good.

If she wanted more, then perhaps her body would finally allow her to have another heat.

Severus hadn't expected to come home so early from the apothecary.

He felt grateful though that the accident hadn't been more serious.

No one had been hurt, only some of the inventory had been damaged.

He sighed to himself as he apparated directly into the living room of his dark house.

Of course everyone else was already asleep, the night had gotten quite late.

Severus took his cloak off and whipped it away to storage with a single flick of his wand, but as he walked towards the stairs, his eyes widened.

Clearly, everyone in the house had not gone to sleep quite yet.

He closed his mouth quickly to avoid drooling at the hypnotizing scent that he recognized so well.

That was.....Lily.

He would know the scent of his mate's arousal anywhere.

Although the house was silent, Severus glided up the stairs with incredible speed as he raced towards his needy wife.

How thoughtful of his omega to lay waiting for him!

As Severus charged towards the bedroom door, he contemplated all of the ways that he may spend the next hours pampering his lover.....

Chapter 35 - The Blue-Faced Mummy

Thank you for reading! Please let me know if you enjoy! I don't own any of Harry Potter!
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A sigh escaped Lily's lips that sounded so wanton it had Severus gritting his teeth as he opened the door to their bedchamber without warning and glided into the room like an invading serpent.

Severus stealthily passed over the threshold their bedroom.

Lily didn't notice her husband at first, but he certainly noticed her.

In the glow of the candlelight, Severus stared down at his beautiful lover in shocked awe as he watched her writhe on the bed.

His black gaze flickered over her lingerie-clad body until his eyes came to rest on her hand which had buried itself inside the secret silk wall of her panties.

Severus tried not to drool as he imagined what his wife's fingers were doing as she threw her head to the side and bucked her hips.

Lily's emerald eyes shot wide open as the cold air hit her squarely in her center as Severus vanished her expensive bottoms away with a single murmur.

"SEVERUS!" Lily gasped as her shocked gaze met her husband's.

Mr. and Mrs. Snape gaped at each other for a brief second.

The sight of Lily's fingers tangled in the secrets of her womanhood, which her curls of dark hair failed to hide, was all that Severus needed to fall onto his knees before her.

Lily gasped as she looked deep into her alpha's eyes.

All thought of a night to herself was thrown aside as Severus gently pried her hand from her center and dove forward to set about his work.

As badly as Lily wanted to be in touch with her own body, Severus spent the rest of the evening upending her plans as he made sure every centimeter of his beautiful mate was pink from his touch, moist from his kisses, and thoroughly, completely satisfied.

Lily lay underneath Severus many hours later, panting for breath as he tended to the bite marks that he had intentionally left on the insides of her breasts, across the heaving cleavage that peeked out from her ruined, lacey bra.

"Sev....." Lily breathed as she raked a trembling hand through her husband's raven-black hair.

“May I ask.....” Severus purred against her skin. His warm breath blew over her flesh as he whispered, “.....What exactly was it that you were doing when I came home?.....Do you take delight in cruelly teasing me?”

Severus had ripped Lily’s lingerie to shreds in his haste to have her.

The luxurious fabric of her newly purchased pieces hung off of her in shambles, but she didn’t mind in the least.

Lily sighed quietly as she spoke, “Sev.....I wasn’t trying to tease you, you weren’t ever supposed to see this. I certainly didn’t intend for you to find me in such a state.”

“Then who was all of this for?” Severus asked with an angry scowl of suspicion.

Lily smiled in amusement at the jealousy that crept into Severus’s dark eyes as she replied, “.....Me~.”

Severus’s scowl deepened, “.....I beg your pardon, Lily?”

“This was all for me, Sev.” Lily laughed as she passed her hand lovingly over her husband’s face, “It was my mother’s idea.....that I take a little time for myself, buy myself a few nice things, and try to focus on my body instead of forcing it.”

“What do you mean by that?.....What have you been forcing yourself to do?” Severus asked worriedly.

“Well, I’ve been so worried about having another heat, I just.....it’s made me a bit nervous, I suppose.” Lily chuckled shyly.

The angry look of jealousy vanished from Severus’s face as he pulled Lily into his arms.

She cuddled into his embrace as they wound together for a moment in a tight snuggle.

Severus nuzzled into the nest of Lily’s red hair as he kissed her ear and whispered, “I never meant to force anything on you, my love.....It was never my intention for the prospect of another child to be a stressor or a.....burden. I thought you may have even shared my desire.....The last thing I ever want to do is to make you feel poorly.”

“Oh, no, Sev!” Lily laughed as she moved back so they could look at each other once more. Severus gazed into her emerald eyes while she explained, “I absolutely share your desire! I didn’t mean that I felt poorly, I just.....I want very much to make you happy!”

“You already make me happier than you’ll ever know.” Severus drawled as he took Lily’s face in his hands and let his velvety fingertips brush over her fair, smooth skin, “Every second of every day, my love, in this life and the next,”

“Well.....” Lily said with a smirk as she glanced down and let her fingers trail across Severus’s bare chest before her eyes flickered back up to meet his, “I want to make you.....more happy, Sev. Is that a crime? Are you such a possessive alpha that you can’t allow me to explore my own femininity?”

Lily let a single finger glide along Severus's throat until it tapped gently over his lips.

When he parted them to kiss her fingertip as he held eye contact with her, Lily couldn't prevent a heated blush from covering her cheeks.

She wondered for a moment if Severus would kiss her again or attempt to consume her as he gave her a calculating stare that shimmered with unquenched yearning.

What a brazen mate he had to lie underneath him, dressed in garments that would have made any man's pulse race, and speak so plainly about her explorations of her own womanhood.

Severus thought back to the sound that he had heard Lily make when she had touched herself and he wondered just how far his omega's bravado would carry her?

If he ever walked in on a scene like that again, Severus was frightened that between the scent of Lily's arousal and his own displaced jealousy, he may very well go feral.

Dawn came dismayingly quickly for Mr. and Mrs. Snape.

Eileen took little Harry downstairs for his breakfast while Severus and Lily dressed the triplets for the day.

Lily laughed as Basil managed to pull her robe aside and help himself to a nipple immediately after she and Severus had gathered their three babies into their arms.

"Come on, love." Lily cooed to her little boy as she tried to unlatch him, "We eat breakfast now, remember?"

It had been a struggle to wean the triplets all at once.

Credence and Sterling had become mostly content with the meals they had been presented with in their high chairs, instead of their mother's milk, but Basil, the youngest and smallest, still preferred Lily at least once or twice a day.

It saddened her to break that connection with her baby.

Although as much as Lily didn't want that part of her little ones' infancy to end, it frightened her that nursing could be putting a halt to her heats.

Severus respectfully tried to let his wife have ownership of the process.

Since Harry's arrival, he had made it a point to not offer many opinions on the matter.

That morning though, as he saw the remorseful frown on Lily's face and heard the pitiful whine that Basil let out as she tried to push him away, Severus reached out and laid a hand over Lily's.

Lily blinked as she looked up.

Basil clutched Lily and increased the pace of his suckling while Severus glanced from his son to his wife as he urged her, "Let him eat his fill, my love."

It shocked Lily that Severus stated his viewpoint on the subject.

He hoped that his omega wouldn't be offended that he had spoken his unwarranted input.

To his relief, Severus saw the gratitude that flashed across Lily's lovely face as she gladly accepted the support of her alpha.

"But.....Credence and Sterling are eating at the table now." She pouted, "I can't keep nursing him, Sev, it's delaying my cycle.....well, it may not be, but I'm certain it is! I think it happened with Harry too."

Severus leaned forward and kissed the worry off of his beloved flower's lips.

".....Then so be it." He nodded, "Do you consider me that impatient, Lily? I will gladly wait for you to mother our infants to the fullest extent before we welcome the next."

Lily laughed quietly and leaned in to kiss Severus's cheek as Basil closed his eyes and held onto his mother while he finished his breakfast.

If the baby hadn't been in the way, Severus and Lily's kiss would have become more meaningful than their brief exchange.

Severus found it incredibly beguiling that his mate was such a wonderful mother to his pups and that she wanted to bear him more.

The look of unquenched longing on Severus's face spurred Lily's pulse to accelerate.

His dark gaze was full of both admiration and devotion as he kissed her lips again while he patted their youngest son on his round little head.

Omegas deeply appreciated alphas who were kind, understanding, and loving.

Lily Snape was very fortunate to have Severus as her husband.

"I like apples, Daddy." Harry informed Severus later that morning during breakfast while he ate the slices of fruit that sat on his plate.

"Is that so?" Severus asked his eldest son as he raised an eyebrow and looked over at his dark-haired little boy.

Eileen and Lily smiled at each other while they listened and fed the triplets.

Credence and Sterling obediently ate their applesauce, but Basil only took a few mouthfuls.

Harry nodded at Severus while he continued to munch the apple slices with his tiny, white teeth.

“Do you like apples, Daddy?” Harry asked.

“.....Occasionally.” Severus replied after he watched Harry for a moment, “Your mother and grandmother like them very much, though.”

Eileen and Lily watched Harry think very hard about something for a long moment.

“What is it, sweetheart?” Lily asked Harry as she wiped Credence’s little face with a towel.

“Do you think that the blue-faced Mummy likes apple slices?” Harry asked.

Severus furrowed his brow.

Eileen and Lily frowned as the adults all glanced at each other.

Harry stared at his plate while his young mind pondered its own question.

“.....Who, sweetheart?” Lily asked.

“The blue-faced Mummy.” Harry repeated with a very matter-of-fact shrug.

“.....And who would that be?” Severus pressed Harry as Eileen and Lily stared at the small boy with worried frowns of confusion.

“I can show you, Daddy!” Harry cried excitedly as he leapt to his feet.

Severus glanced over at Lily, who threw him an incredulous look.

He rose from the table and followed Harry, who raced excitedly across the main floor of the Snapes’ house.

Severus’s heart tightened with worry as he watched Harry hurtle straight towards the door that led to his brewing room.....

Chapter 36 - Spills

Thank you for reading! Please let me know if you enjoy! I don't own any of Harry Potter!
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Severus opened the basement door for Harry.

He cautioned in his low voice when he saw his excited little boy take off running down the wooden stairs, "WALK.....that's better.....Your mother would never forgive me if you slipped and hurt yourself."

Severus grouched those words at Harry while the truth remained that he would never forgive himself if one of his pups became injured right in front of his eyes.

Harry laughed as he slowed his pace down to a brisk walk and clodded down the stairs to land on the basement floor with a laugh in one enthusiastic jump.

Severus glided behind his son as Harry toddled through the room.

When the wood creaked behind him, he turned just in time to see Lily make her way down the staircase as well.

She appeared to be as concerned as Severus about the disturbing words that had tumbled from Harry's innocent mouth.

Severus and Lily scowled at each other before their attention turned back to Harry who stopped abruptly in front of the wall that held the many rows of Severus's stored potion ingredients.

Lily stepped onto the floor of the brewing room while she watched with Severus as Harry stared up at the wall of potions ingredients with wide eyes and his mouth open.

Harry plopped down on his bottom and stared up at that wall until Severus asked, "You're not supposed to come down here and play, son.....Surely your Mother and Grandmother have told you that?"

"I don't play here, Daddy." Harry said as he looked over his shoulder at Severus and wiggled his little legs.

Severus frowned at his son while Harry grinned widely and exclaimed, ".....But the blue-faced Mummy told me that she does!"

Severus and Lily exchanged a nervous glance as Harry looked back at the dark, stone wall of the basement.

The adults in the Snape household kept an extra careful watch on the children for the rest of the day.

Eileen helped her grandsons ready for bed that evening and after their parents had kissed them all goodnight, Severus and Lily went back down to the basement brewing room together with a glowing candelabra.

Severus kept his dark eyes narrowed in a scowl, but Lily wore a worried frown on her face.

“He could have just imagined it, Sev.” Lily reasoned as Severus stared at the same stone wall that Harry had peered at when he had raced down to the basement earlier.

“Perhaps.....” Severus replied cryptically.

“If he had seen a ghost, we would have seen it too.” Lily chuckled nervously.

“.....Not necessarily.” He drawled as he reached a hand out and laid it on the cold, dark stone.

“What’s that supposed to mean?” Lily frowned.

“A ghost can make themselves plainly visible or they may reveal themselves only to certain individuals.” Severus said as he frowned at the wall and lifted his hand.

“Well.....what shall we do about that?” Lily frowned.

“We shall.....” Severus started to say. He stared at the wall for another moment before he turned towards his wife and nodded at her, “.....We shall.....request the property records for this particular piece of land.”

“The land was clear when you bought it, Sev!” Lily laughed, “There was nothing here before us.”

“My love,” Severus reasoned as he glided over to Lily and swept her up close to his chest, “How many years have passed on this earth? We may have to do a bit of research, but I saw the look in Harry’s eyes.....You watched him sit down in front of that wall and stare.....he’s seen something.....and I’m going to find out what.”

Eileen left the investigating up to her son and daughter-in-law while she continued to spend her time caring for Harry and his triplet brothers.

Lily tried to shrug off her toddler’s bizarre behavior.

She could see ghosts, Severus and Eileen could see ghosts.....

To Lily, it made no sense for Harry to see a spirit that they had never laid eyes on and besides, she had never felt uneasy in the Snapes’ grand home.

Why should she be frightened?

Lily chose to let Harry have his imaginary friend uninhibited while she continued to relax, calm herself, and dream of the daughter that she may one day be able to give her husband.

Severus buried himself in his research to discover exactly what the land he owned had been through, who had been there, and any potential events that may have resulted in someone.....lingering about.

One fall afternoon, Eileen and Lily were busily baking two cinnamon pumpkin cakes for the evening's dessert while the triplets cooed and played together.

Harry enjoyed that delicious smell very much and he smiled up at his two favorite women while he watched them bustle around the kitchen together.

Lily felt like she was moving through a fog that day.

She was careful not to press her arms too tightly to her chest as she worked.

Her breasts had grown too sore for touch.

When Severus had made love to her the previous evening, she had gnashed her teeth to stop from crying out in pain when his hands had found her sensitive curves.

Lily smiled to herself as she placed one of the cinnamon pumpkin cakes into the oven.

She wasn't foolish enough to let her hopes fly too high just yet, but as she bent over and felt what she recognized as the shadow of a cramp echo across her abdomen, she smirked to herself.

Next would come the headache, the slight nausea, and then the unbearable surge of warmth that would consume her body and force her to seek Severus out.....

That evening, while the family milled around the living room after dinner, Lily tasted her cinnamon pumpkin cake on Severus's lips as she kissed him quickly.

The slightest hint of a smirk ghosted across his face when he felt his wife nip him sharply as she pulled away.

Lily wore a bright grin while she walked over, sat down next to Harry on the sofa, and helped him with his colouring book.

The sweet perfume of his mate preparing to enter her most vulnerable state was dizzying to Severus.

Lily had done everything that she could to hasten another cycle's arrival.

She dared to hope that her efforts had finally paid off.....

It was Mrs. Snape's assumption that within the next week, she'd finally have another heat.

“WWWAAA!”

“WWWAAAA!”

“WWWWWAAAA!”

The the triplets spent several hours wailing the next day as their small bellies ached while Eileen and Lily sought to soothe them with gentle rocking motions aided by a few drops of children’s healing potion.

Severus had left the house briefly to visit the family’s apothecary.

Harry soon became frustrated with the noise from his little brothers.

He remembered the previous day and his nostalgia sent him wandering into the kitchen in the wistful hope that he may catch another whiff of his mother’s baking, but the kitchen was sadly empty.

Harry had known that it would be, but he still frowned as he stood there and clutched his toy hippogriff while his brothers screeched in the background.

Harry turned to toddle back into the living room when all of a sudden, a smell floated by his small nose.....not cinnamon pumpkin cake, but cookies.....Lily’s sugar cookies that she made every once in a while as a treat.

Yes!

Harry’s green eyes widened as the scent became stronger and he took an eager step towards the aroma.

Severus had specifically closed and locked the brewing room door before he had left the house.

Somehow though, as Harry approached, the door had become unlocked and stood open wide enough to let the little boy silently pass through unnoticed by Eileen and Lily.

A bright smile crossed Harry’s face as he toddled down the basement stairs into his father’s brewing room while the smell of freshly baked sugar cookies grew stronger and stronger.

He blinked his wide, emerald eyes as he held his smile and looked over at the shadowy figure that stood in front of Severus’s wall of potions ingredients.

Harry laughed as the shadow rotated and faced him.

“Hello!” Harry cried cheerfully as the transparent figure of a woman in a long, tattered dress from years ago floated towards him.

Harry reached a curious little hand out towards the shadow, protected from fear by a child's innocence.

The shadow in front of Harry reached its hand out as well and a second later, the woman's transparent fingertips barely touched Harry's little hand.....

Upstairs, Credence shook violently in his mother's arms as Lily trembled when an unexpected shiver ran down her spine.

"Lily?" Eileen frowned as Lily sat Credence down on the sofa next to her, "What's the matter, dear?"

"I.....I have the most terrible feeling all of a sudden." Lily confessed as she shivered again.

A horrible frown of dread marred her face.

"Tell me, love, what's come over you?" Eileen asked as she frowned back and reached out to Lily.

The look on Lily's face made Eileen nearly as uneasy as the sudden calm the triplets experienced after hours of crying.

Lily glanced around and asked her mother-in-law in a worried gasp, "Where's Harry?!"

Eileen nodded at Lily and gestured behind her to where her eldest grandson had been playing, "Well, he's right over--"

Lily looked at Eileen in horror.

As Eileen whirled around, her eyes widened when she noticed that Harry had disappeared.

Lily's gaze darted around the room until they eventually landed on the open door to Severus's basement.

A small shriek came from her throat as she raced from the living area, charged into the basement, and clambered down the stairs while she shouted, "Harry?!...Harry?!.....HARRY?!?!?"

Downstairs in the basement, Harry turned towards his mother's voice as the shadowy figure in front of him grimaced before it disappeared from sight.

Harry still had his hand outstretched when Lily dashed into the basement.

Her chest heaved with a sigh of relief as she ran over to her little boy.

She scooped him up into her arms as she cried, “Oh, Harry! Harry, love, are you alright? You can’t wander away like that! That was very naughty of you! You had your grandmother and I worried sick!”

“I’m alright, Mummy.” Harry blinked as Lily pressed fierce kisses to his chubby little cheeks, “I smelled cookies and then the blue-faced Mummy came to play with me.”

“Nevermind about the blue-faced Mummy.” Lily snapped as she stood up, placed Harry on her hip, and walked up the stairs to rejoin the rest of the family, “You aren’t to leave your Mummy’s sight, do you understand?”

“Yes, Mummy.” Harry nodded as he yawned and laid his head on Lily’s shoulder, “I understand.”

Lily closed the door to the basement and walked over to the sofa as she began to tell Eileen where she had found her escaped son.

Downstairs in Severus’s brewing room, the blue-faced Mummy was not as pleased.

No one was present to witness the occurrence, but every glass container on Severus’s wall of ingredients cracked and burst without warning.

With the basement door closed and the echo not carrying up the steps, the cacophonous noise of broken glass crashing onto the floor was not heard.

The spilled potions ingredients tumbled together in the chaos caused by a woman’s wounded spirit.

Chapter 37 - What Lies Ahead

Thank you for reading! Please let me know if you enjoy! I don't own any of Harry Potter!
Updates every Saturday!

Severus was less than thrilled that evening when he came home to find the mess of broken glass and spilled ingredients on the floor of his brewing room.

He remembered how wide Lily's eyes had been when she had told him about Harry's escape earlier.

Out of a desire not to alarm his wife any further, he decided not to mention the wreckage he had found to his beloved flower, at least not that night.

Severus pulled out his wand and whispered under his breath as he cast a simple cleaning spell to repair the glass and sort the ingredients back into their proper places.

He frowned when his spell failed to work.

As his eyes narrowed, he turned towards the staircase, performed the same spell, and watched as the fine layer of dust that had collected that day cleaned itself from the steps.

His magic wasn't gone then.....it had only been ineffective on the broken glass.

Severus's face pulled itself into a tight scowl as he spent the next two hours cleaning the glass and sorting the ingredients in the same painfully slow manner that a muggle would use under similar circumstances.

Once he had finally completed his task, he frowned as he considered what the cost would be to replace all of those finely crafted glass jars.

His frown stayed on his face while he stalked up the basement steps to leave the room.

He silently vowed to increase his research efforts over the next week.

Severus needed answers about whatever enemy he faced.

He didn't appreciate anyone or anything vandalizing the property that he had purchased with the money which he had worked to earn.

Beyond the bit of destroyed property, he would simply not tolerate anyone or anything invading his home, frightening his mate, and approaching his children.

The entire affair quickly slipped Lily's mind.

She had predicted her body's actions correctly.

Three days later, after a morning spent arranging and rearranging her nest on the floor, Lily laid amongst the mounds of fluffy pillows and soft blankets.

Eileen understood that her position for the next few days would be difficult as she would need to care for Harry and the triplets all at once.

Although, after years of hiding in a silent, dark house, she looked forward to the task.

When Severus came home from his visit to the apothecary later that afternoon, he looked at his mother with his chin held high and his chest swollen with pride.

Eileen pointed up towards the bedroom where Lily lay waiting for him.

She tried not to think about what her son would soon be doing as she turned to tickle the triplets, who laughed at her from their playpen on the floor.

Eileen was grateful that silencing charms existed.

It may have been Lily's imagination but she could have promised that Severus enriched her body every time he gave her a child to carry.

Her heat after Harry had been far stronger and better than the cycle when she and Severus had first come together.

It wasn't surprising then that Lily's first heat after the triplets proved to be her best one yet.

She felt as hot, uncomfortable, and frustrated as ever, but Lily enjoyed an unfamiliar undertone of contentment during her cycle.

She felt natural.

She felt healthy.

She felt.....happy.

Her feelings were heightened to an almost intolerable degree whenever Severus took her into his arms and satisfied her needs.

Eileen brought water and meals outside of the couples' room for the first few days as Severus and Lily tumbled through a wonderfully exhausting routine together.

They would mate and cuddle, then eat and doze for a few hours before they woke again to mate and cuddle, eat and doze for a few hours.

When they woke, their cycle repeated.....

Severus's black eyes glimmered with the sweet tenderness of a man in love as he stared down at Lily while he held her close to him each time after they coupled.

Lily sighed against Severus and did her best to bury her face either against his chest or in the crook of his neck as she breathed in his pleasant scent that reminded her of lavender, leather, and bits of parchment.

After days filled with an uncountable amount of rounds, Severus blinked at Lily when she dared to raise her head and kiss his lips once more.

Severus felt something stir in his groin as he contemplated the fact that his wife wanted to gain his affections yet again.

"Are you attempting to slay me, my love?" He asked with a sigh as Lily nipped at his lips.

"Let me give you a daughter, Sev." She offered as her soft hands began to roam over his smooth chest once more.

Severus's breath hitched as Lily's touch wandered lower to drift across the beginnings of his arousal.

The way his abdomen jolted when her fingertips brushed against him put a grin on her face.

"Be careful, Lily....." Severus warned as he moved them so that Lily lay underneath him. He peered down at her with his black hair hanging around his face as he purred, "..... You may get more than you're asking for."

Lily intended to say something else in return but she lost her thoughts as she stared up into her husband's piercing, black eyes.

Severus grit his teeth at the happy, confident little sigh that boldly left his mate's lips as she dared to raise her creamy legs when he moved back and straightened his spine.

Lily let one of her toes drift down the side of her husband's face before she slowly wrapped her legs around his waist and squeezed him tightly, ready to lure him in closer.....

Severus already felt himself breathing hard as he moved forward and prepared to crash into the curvy, soft, sweet-smelling treat that was his darling flower.

Lily became so insatiable at the height of her cycle that it amazed Severus she didn't send him into a full rut.

Somehow, they had been spared from that fate.

As the first, roughest days of Lily's heat came to a conclusion, Severus and Lily rejoined the household once they were sure they could keep their hands off of each other long enough to care for their children and have a pleasant conversation with Eileen.

Lily still blushed whenever Severus looked at her.

While the fierceness of her cycle's beginning had ended, Severus and Lily continued to sneak away for the occasional tryst for the remainder of that week.

On the last night of Lily's heat, she and Severus lay snuggled together in her nest while he lavished tender, languid kisses on her lips.

Lily chuckled quietly as Severus let his fingers idly drift through her crimson tresses while he gazed down at her with that familiar tenderness in his black eyes.

His words startled her.

".....You're with child." Severus spoke in his low rumble of a purr.

Lily blinked.

It was not a question, it was not a boast, it was a simple, factual statement.

Lily laughed as she sat up in her nest and shook her head at her husband, "What do you mean I'm with child, Sev? You can't possibly know that yet."

Severus moved from where he lay to place a gentle kiss on the exposed skin just under her navel.

To Lily, the sight was as arousing as it was loving.

Her alpha adored her and the family she had given him.

"I can sense it." Severus purred as he gently nuzzled her belly, "This one will be strong, my love.....Your scent has already started to change."

"That's impossible!" Lily chuckled, "You're just imagining things, Sev. You must be as excited as I am, that's all."

Severus looked up at Lily in quiet admiration.

She smiled down at him as she cupped his pale face in her hands.

Instead of moving straight towards her lips, he kissed her breasts for a moment before she laid down with a sigh and let him work his way towards her mouth.

Mrs. Snape slept with her back to Mr. Snape that night while he spooned her.

Their fingers were intertwined as their hands laid over Lily's belly while they slumbered together and dreamed of the sweet years to come.

Severus's pleasant rest suddenly became disrupted.

Out of the blissful nothingness that a sleeping mind knew, he found himself standing on a cobblestone street, dressed in a fine, black top hat and a suit that would have become any gentleman a century ago.

He frowned as he looked around at his strange surroundings and stared at the people that bustled past.

Men, women, and children hurried up and down the crowded street, all seeing to their own errands and plans.

Peddlers pushed their carts while horse drawn carriages rattled past.

As he turned around, Severus could have sworn that he recognized several of the shops from Diagon Alley, but the horses threw him off.

Was he in the magical or the muggle world?

A short distance ahead, a woman caught his attention with her skeletal face.

Severus's eyes narrowed as the eerie woman held eye contact with him for a moment before she turned on her heel and hurried down the street.

As Severus took a step forward, he heard Lily whisper to him.

The sound blew past his ears along with the gentle coo of a baby.

The woman with the skeletal smile walked on and Severus continued to pursue her as Lily's voice became louder.

The baby's coo turned into a frightened wail.

Severus pursued the woman further.

Lily's whisper escalated into a loud, mournful cry.

The motion on the street disturbed Severus.

The mechanical movements of the people nearby unsettled him.

The bizarre woman slowed her pace as if she wanted to be caught, but as Severus sped up, Lily's cry became a scream in his ear, a terrible, howling sound.

The baby's coos turned into agonized shrieks as Severus grit his teeth and ran towards the woman.

The street teemed with activity,

The horses neighed.

Severus reached the woman with tears streaming down his pale face as Lily shouted out to him for help while a baby wailed miserably in his mind.

As his fingertips touched the tattered ribbon on her decaying dress, Severus sat bolt upright in bed with a gasp.

The motion instantly woke Lily who sat up a second later and frowned as she found her husband panting for breath.

“Severus!” Lily exclaimed at the stricken look on her husband’s damp face, “Sev, love, what’s happened? What’s the matter?”

Lily had never seen the fear in Severus’s black eyes that he showed her as he turned to look at her and pulled her roughly into his arms.

She swallowed as her alpha smushed her against his clammy chest and wrapped his arms around her protectively, as if a monster may rise out of the shadows at any second and steal her away.

Lily didn’t like it at all, the way her husband’s heart raced in her ears or how he clutched onto her as if he had to hang onto her desperately.

Severus Snape was difficult to scare.

It made Lily’s skin crawl to contemplate what could have possibly startled her lover so badly.

Chapter 38 - Family

Thank you for reading! Please let me know if you enjoy! I don't own any of Harry Potter!
Updates every Saturday!

Severus Snape had spent years being a victim.

He had become a victor the moment that Lily had chosen him as her alpha.

Severus had worked to build a home, a life, and a family with his beloved mate.

Severus was not going to have that blissful reality compromised by anyone or anything.

He chose not to go back to sleep after his nightmare and instead, he rose from bed, went downstairs, and lit the large fireplace in the living room.

He used the coffee table as a surface to spread out all of his findings from the research that he had conducted on the location of his family's home.

Lily sought to soothe her alpha by giving him some company after his startling experience.

She stood from the bed after Severus, pulled on her night robe, and walked down the steps to join him on the sofa.

Severus pecked her lips as she sat down next to him before he turned back to brood over the pages, books, and parchments that he had gathered.

"Have you found anything interesting yet?" Lily asked.

"Oh yes....." Severus replied.

He opened his mouth to speak but Lily spoke first as she frowned, "You haven't mentioned anything about it to me, Sev."

"I saw little point in worrying you, Lily." Severus replied as he picked up one piece of parchment.

"You're worrying me more by saying nothing than telling me the truth." Lily pouted as she reached out and laid a hand on Severus's wrist.

He looked over at her as the fire crackled while they waited for dawn to approach.

".....Sev?" Lily asked quietly.

Severus leaned forward and gave her a slow, soft kiss.

He had already spoken truthfully, he didn't want to bother his mate.

He didn't want to cause Lily any reason for concern, but his fiery bride was persistent.

"Tell me what you know." Lily whispered as she laid her forehead against his with a gentle sigh.

Severus pulled away and frowned at his wife for a long moment.

When she held his gaze in a silent signal that she had no intention of backing down on her request to learn about their property, Severus drew in a deep breath.

He laid the parchment in his hand down on the table before he moved to pick up another.

Severus brought the scrap of worn newspaper close enough that Lily could see the faded print before he nodded, "In 1875, a home was built on this exact spot of land. A year later, it burned to the ground in a tragic turn of events. According to the fragment of this article that I was able to partially read, a valiant effort was made to save the inhabitants of the house, but to no avail. The owners perished, trapped inside."

"That's.....awful." Lily frowned as her eyes skimmed over the faint words on the dingy scrap of news, ".....What a terrible story."

"That's not all." Severus frowned.

Lily frowned with him as he went on, "According to the page that I found in this old manuscript...." Severus said as he picked a book up from the edge of the coffee table and placed it on Lily's lap, "Two centuries before that, a castle stood here, on this patch of earth. A muggle princess dwelt within its walls.....If the text is to be believed as truth, she eventually married a wizard in secret."

"Oh?" Lily blinked, "That's quite intriguing."

".....I beg to differ." Severus said with a heavy sigh, "From what I read in the text, the muggles caught the wizard performing magic and promptly burned him at the stake. The muggle princess was executed on the same day that she bore their only child, a daughter, seven months later."

Lily looked at Severus with a frown of deep disgust and despairing sadness as she whispered quietly, "Oh, Sev.....how awful!"

"Indeed." Severus nodded as he took the book from Lily and laid it down gently on the table.

"What happened to the daughter?" Lily asked.

When Severus stared at her for a moment, Lily nodded and prompted him, ".....The princess's daughter?"

"That wasn't recorded." Severus shook his head, "I would imagine that it's unlikely the child survived.....although I can't be certain since I wasn't there to learn one way or the other."

Mr. and Mrs. Snape stared into the licking flames as they thought.

“Do you think then, that Harry’s new friend is only imaginary?” Lily asked.

“I think.....” Severus said with a resigned sigh, “.....That we should move, Lily.”

“Move?!” Lily gasped louder than she meant.

Severus glared over at her as he placed a finger to his lips.

Embarrassment overcame her that she had all but forgotten their children slept upstairs as she hissed, “This is our dream home! We can’t just pick up and leave!”

“I can have the house moved to another piece of land.” Severus reasoned, “We can buy the same amount of property, keep the same home, the same furniture, the same-“

“-But it won’t be the same.” Lily pouted obstinately, “I’m sorry that those tragedies happened here, but that doesn’t change the fact that the triplets were born in this house, on this spot of land.”

“It frightens me to consider what may happen if my deductions are correct.” Severus said with a resolute exhale.

Lily frowned as she asked, “.....What do you mean, Sev?”

“It makes me nervous to think of what may come if you are carrying another baby.....especially if the child is female.” Severus explained.

Lily chuckled anxiously as she shook her head at Severus and spoke, “No, Sev.....surely you don’t think-“

“-Not all spirits are as friendly or as benevolent as the ones who haunt the halls of Hogwarts. You know that as well as I, Lily.” Severus replied.

“You really believe that Harry is seeing someone, don’t you?” Lily asked as she frowned at her husband.

“I believe that the glass on my wall of potions ingredients didn’t crack and shatter on their own.” Severus drawled. Lily’s eyes widened as he continued, “Yes.....I came home to find the entire room in a state of dishevelment on the day that you chased Harry down there....I also believe that I am the alpha, the head of this family, a husband, a father, a son.....And as such, I must do whatever’s necessary to keep you, our children, and my mother safe.”

They stared at each other for a moment as they pondered the seriousness of their situation.

Lily sighed and turned to look at the fire that crackled in the hearth.

Severus frowned and reached over to take her hand into his.

He silently stroked the back of her knuckles with his velvety fingertips.

It made his heart ache to see the look of concern in Lily's emerald eyes, but he was happy that they could agree on what needed to be done.

That same afternoon, he wrote a letter to Quininns Co. Builders humbly requesting their service:

To Mr. Wilfred and Mr. Archibald Quininns,

My wife and I are quite satisfied with the quality of the craftsmanship displayed in our family home, however, we unfortunately will need to relocate our dwelling from this particular spot. Do you offer magical movement services so that we may buy another piece of property and move our haven to a new location?

Respectfully,

Severus Snape, Potions Master

Quininns Co. Builders never disappointed in terms of quality or service.

A reply letter came promptly to the Snapes' house, which Severus read over right away:

Dear Mr. Severus Snape,

Quininns Co. Builders gladly assists all of our customers with every aspect of building, moving, and inhabiting their dwellings at any and all points of the process! We will happily help you move your family's home to any location of your choosing. We can even implement charms that will transport the building internationally, as long as local governments allow such efforts. Please let us know more about your request as soon as possible.

Kind Regards,

Mr. Wilfred and Mr. Archibald Quininns

The letter proved to be a relief to both Severus and Lily.

All they would need to do would be to find a patch of land suitable for them to move their house to, enlist the Quininns brothers' help, and then they would be rid of their predicament.

Severus kept the letter folded in the pockets of his robes on the day that he and Lily left their fine estate for a visit with the midwife.

Eileen had agreed to stay behind with the children.

Although Severus was as hopeful as Lily that they would discover some good news that day, he was equally as hopeful that perhaps, they may at least find a magical realtor to contact about purchasing a spacious enough plot of land to sit their house on.

The issue of the haunting was put aside as Severus helped Lily lay back onto the midwife's examination table.

The woman exposed a small bit of Lily's abdomen and Severus ignored the slight throb of arousal that rushed to his groin as he looked at his wife's creamy belly.

"Have you been fatigued?" The midwife asked her patient while a gentle glow ignited around the tip of her wand.

"Some days, yes." Lily said as Severus squeezed her hand gently.

"Sore breasts?" The midwife asked as she moved her wand to her patient and watched as its gentle light began to make Lily's flat belly glow.

"Yes!" Lily laughed as Severus glanced from her to the midwife.

"Any nausea?" The midwife pressed.

"Not much." Lily said as she shook her head.

When the midwife frowned, Severus did the same.

Hesitation stirred in Lily's heart as she glanced between her midwife and her husband before she spoke up, ".....My alpha thinks that I'm with child again."

The midwife's expression relaxed a bit as the glow removed itself from Lily's belly before the small light at the tip of her wand slowly faded away.

"Well," The midwife said as she glanced up at Lily and removed her wand from her abdomen, "...Your alpha is right, Mrs. Snape! You've conceived once more!"

Lily had expected to hear that statement fall from her midwife's lips, although for some reason, she still gasped when her expectations were fulfilled.

Severus's black eyes widened in joyful gladness as he turned and accepted the tight hug in which Lily enveloped him.

"I'll leave you two alone for a moment." The midwife smiled as she watched the couple embrace, "When you're ready, just open the door, alright?"

"Thank you." Severus murmured to the healthcare provider from where he lay in Lily's grasp as she happily squeezed him.

Once the midwife left the exam room, Severus managed to pry himself out of his mate's clutches and stare down at her with his dark gaze soft and his mouth held in a reverent frown.

"Sev, it's a girl!" Lily cried with happy tears streaming down her cheeks, "I can feel it! This time it's a girl....exactly like you wanted!"

"Oh, Lily....." Severus began as he leaned in and caught her lips with his own.

Did she really believe him to be that shallow?

A daughter would be ideal, but the gender of their next baby mattered little to Severus as he pulled Lily into his embrace right there on the midwife's table.

If Lily bore Severus a hundred sons, he'd proudly love them all.

Chapter 39 - Standing Ground

Thank you for reading! I don't own any of Harry Potter! Please let me know if you enjoy!
Updates every Saturday!

Severus woke to the soft, fluttering feeling of his mate's lips brushing gently over his skin.

He opened his dark eyes to see the bright light of a new day streaming in through the windows as he moved under the covers.

As his consciousness fully returned, he found himself staring up into Lily's vivid, green gaze while he lay on his back.

Severus was instantly wide awake as he stared at his beautiful omega and drank in her lovely, flawless skin, highlighted by the curtain of shimmering, long, crimson hair that spilled deftly over one of her elegant shoulders.

Neither Severus nor Lily had bothered to seek out their nightclothes again after they had shed them for a tryst the previous evening.

They had both collapsed in each other's arms, comforted by the warmth and softness of Lily's nest, while they allowed themselves to be cocooned into a deep sleep together.

"Good morning, Sev~." Lily smiled softly.

"Good morning, my.....love." Severus murmured. His breath hitched halfway through his greeting as he felt her gentle touch once more, but that time, he was able to identify the sensation more clearly.

When Severus's black gaze flickered to his groin, his eyes widened as he watched his wife run her fingers over the sensitive tip of his arousal.

"Would.....Would you like me again, already?" Severus asked in disbelief.

Lily dipped her head.

Severus's heart clenched in his chest as he asked through grit teeth, ".....Lily?!"

The eroticism displayed in the sight of her lips parting to take him sent Severus bucking his hips gratefully into her waiting mouth.

When he groaned and tried to pull her off, Lily only sank down lower.

Severus's black eyes grew wider at the overpowering feeling as she relaxed her jaw and let him press against her.

When he realized that his cruel omega had no intentions of freeing him from his entrapment, he let his slender fingers knot in Lily's tangled, red hair.

Severus let his head roll back while he gnashed his teeth as he spiraled down into a deep void of pleasure.

As good as it felt, he grew increasingly unhappy as he sensed himself nearing the end of the tunnel.

Severus was not an alpha who enjoyed having his omega perform purely for his own gains.

He was more than that.

Severus Snape was a man in love; body, mind, and soul.

As such, he sought a more complete form of satisfaction by taking Lily with him into that abyss of earthly bliss.

It heightened Lily's own arousal when Severus stiffened underneath her, pulled her hair in one commanding yank, and growled, "Up."

Lily slowly pulled back and let Severus slip from the tight, welcoming warmth of her mouth before she frowned up at him.

"Have I done something wrong, Sev?" She asked with a frown.

Severus's manhood pointed proudly towards the ceiling as he stared at her with a possessive devotion in his black eyes while he drawled, "Lily, have you not heard me clearly?...I said.....'up'."

As Severus moved forward and slowly rose from his comfortable position in his wife's nest, Lily frowned while she stood to her feet as well.

She couldn't help but wonder what she had done to offend Severus, but she had hoped to bring about his release so that she may find her own a few moments later.

Her body certainly anticipated it enough.....

Lily's emerald eyes widened as Severus stepped in front of her, stared down into her face, and slowly walked her back until her spine pressed against the coolness of the wall.

Her heart skipped a beat as she instinctively raised one of her soft legs to Severus's waist, which he helped her wrap around himself before he took her thigh into his hand.

Lily held eye contact with her mate while she raised her other leg and allowed him to pull that one around himself as well.

As Severus hoisted her up and used the wall as a secondary source of support, Lily arched her back while her handsome, brooding alpha slid himself into her painfully slowly.

“OOOHH, SEVVVV!” Lily moaned as that ache between her legs was finally relieved when Severus filled her at last.

She completely captivated Severus as he stared at her while he began to move.

At that moment, while Severus watched Lily enjoy him, wild dogs could have been eating away at his legs and he wouldn't have noticed.

“Won't be able to take you like this for long~.....” Severus purred as he increased his pace and let his eyes lower from Lily's face, “.....My pup will make you too round and vulnerable.”

Round and vulnerable.....Severus felt his own arousal intensify as he spoke those words.

His black eyes glazed over as he stared at Lily and dreamed of her heavily pregnant in her nest while she depended on him and mothered his children.

The mental image was enough to drive Severus feral.

Lily let her nails rake over his back as a hoarse cry escaped her throat while he bent down and took one of her tender nipples into his mouth.

Between the gratifying fullness in her center and the attention that Severus paid to her breasts as he suckled like a baby, the stimulation became more than Lily could bear.

She squeezed Severus's waist with her thighs while her pleasure washed over her.

Severus purposely angled his head so he could hear his darling flower's shout of ecstasy better.

“SSSSSEEEVVVVV!”

He used his beloved's melody as a victory song while he found his own release and emptied himself into his mate.

Once the blinding blast of bliss ended for them both, they stared at each other while they remained locked together, body to body.

Severus leaned in and pressed a deep, loving kiss to his darling's mouth before she chuckled as he pulled away.

Despite the way that she had indulged in her alpha that morning, the hormones that raced through her system from her pregnancy and their encounter still left her wanting even as Severus eased himself from her.

“What a lovely morning.....” Lily commented as she laid her head against Severus's chest.

Severus carefully carried Lily back to her nest and sat her down, but her eyes widened as her husband turned her onto her knees and mounded some pillows in front of her to allow her some support as he helped her bend forward.

“S-Sev?” Lily asked curiously.

That suffocating heat spread through her center again as she felt Severus move behind her and cup the rounded cheeks of her bottom in his hands as she went on, “S-Shouldn’t we get up and see to breakfast?”

“We’ll need to have a healer check your hearing, my love.” Severus replied in a low, husky drawl, “I said ‘up’I never mentioned anything about ‘finished’.”

Lily drew in a silent gasp as she opened herself and widened her hips in a silent invitation for Severus to take what he wanted.

Wanted.....

While Mr. and Mrs. Snape finished the second portion of their morning lovemaking, it was that notion that helped bring their satisfaction.....it felt good to be wanted.

Aside from their intimacy, Severus took the same adorably cautious care of Lily that he had when she had carried Harry and the triplets.

He saw that his mate was properly nourished, hydrated, rested, and as relaxed as possible, although that was a bit difficult, considering their situation.

While Harry continued to happily describe his encounters and adventures with his new friend, Severus and Lily began their search for a new homesite, assisted by Wilfred and Archibald Quinins.

The magical builders began to show the Snapes potential prospects of new property.

Severus and Lily viewed a darkened section of a dismal forest, a fine patch of land right beside a lake infested with pickleback fish and flesh-eating slugs, and lastly, a plateau on a mountain top with bitter temperatures that forced them to encase themselves in a warming spell before their visit.

“Is there no other property available?!” Severus shouted to Wilfred over the blistering whip of the icy wind.

“I’m sorry, Mr. Snape, Mrs. Snape, but land is very difficult to come by in the magical world, especially a piece of it as big as you two seek!” Wilfred shouted back to his customers.

Severus frowned as he considered the truth in the builder’s words.

There was only so much room available in Britain’s wizarding society and most of it had already been claimed by families who had dwelt in the same home for decades, if not centuries.

It was actually quite difficult to find untouched land.

The Quininn's and the Snapes apparated off of that hostile mountain.

Once they arrived back in Quininn's Co.'s shop, they all ended their warming spells with relieved sighs

"We are truly sorry, Mr. and Mrs. Snape." Wilfred frowned at the young couple in front of him, ".....But what we viewed today are currently the only parcels of land available right now."

"Then what are we to do?" Severus frowned as Lily laid a hand on his chest.

Silently, he folded a hand over hers.

"Well.....we can look into foreign land." Wilfred nodded while Archibald frowned at him, "It would take a bit of paperwork with the French or Italian magical governments, but it could be done."

When Lily and Severus both scowled in response, Wilfred took a deep breath and cautiously suggested, ".....We could also sell your home and help you find an entirely new residence to occupy, that would widen the search quite a bit."

"We don't want to go abroad." Severus drawled, "....And Mrs. Snape and I absolutely refuse to sell our home."

"Well, then, Mr. Snape, you also have the option to purchase a piece of land on the muggle side of Britain." Wilfred shrugged.

Severus scowled as if Wilfred had just slapped him across the face.

Lily didn't seem to care as much, but Archibald stared at the couple distrustfully.

"I'm only trying to help you both, Mr. and Mrs. Snape." Wilfred nodded at the young couple.

"We appreciate it very much." Lily beamed.

She moved her fingers over Severus's chest as he asked with a heavy sigh, "May we have some time to think the matter over?"

"Of course." Wilfred smiled, ".....Feel free to contact us as soon as you two have made a decision."

Severus and Lily nodded at the Quininn's brothers before they silently took their leave of the shop.

"Are you alright, my love?" Severus asked as he watched Lily crawl into her nest after they returned home.

“I’m fine, Sev, but I am very exhausted.” Lily huffed as she lay down and pulled the blankets up to her chest.

Severus saw the frown on her face.

Her disappointment made him mirror her expression as he sat beside her, stroked her cheek gently, and asked, “Is there anything that I can get for you, Lily?....Bring you?....Do for you?”

“No, but thanks anyway.” Lily murmured as grogginess thickened her voice, “I’m just....so very.....tired.”

Severus watched his pregnant wife’s body relax as she swiftly fell asleep.

He removed his finger from her cheek as he bent down and pecked her lips.

Severus quietly rose to his feet and walked towards the door to check on Eileen and the children.

He cast one last glance back at Lily before he left their bedroom.

Severus kept the door open in case she called out for him when she woke.

As he walked down the hallway, he thought to himself.....

Severus would have to continue his research on the property that they currently owned.

He had no intention of moving his family to a dangerous, muggle-infested area and he knew that Lily had no interest in giving up their dream home.

They would have to end their conflict with the blue-faced Mummy one way or another because the Snapes had already decided to stay.

Chapter 40 - Unlikely Aid

Thank you for reading! I don't own any of Harry Potter! Please let me know if you enjoy!
Updates every Saturday!

After the Snapes had made their decision to stay put in their home and on their land, Severus stood in his brewing room one morning, stirring his bubbling cauldron as he watched Harry play with his toy figurines on the basement's stone floor.

It wasn't often that Severus allowed his little boy to be near him when he worked with potions, but the Sleeping Draught that he busily brewed posed no potential danger.

As a result, Severus had permitted his eldest child to play nearby.

While Harry staged an imaginary battle with his figurines of wizards and dragons, Severus kept glancing from the cauldron to his son.

He wanted to speak to his little boy, but the fictional skirmish intensified to such a point that Severus decided not to interrupt.

A smirk curled his lips as he watched Harry shout and wave his figures around in a wild reenactment of what he saw clearly in his imagination.

With a great cry, it all ended as Harry tossed his toys into the air and flopped down beside them in defeat after they scattered on the floor.

A moment of silence passed until Severus dared to ask, ".....Harry?"

He narrowed his eyes when his son failed to respond.

Severus amplified his voice to make his low drawl more audible as he called again, ".....Harry?"

On the floor, little Harry laid unmoving with his eyes closed.

When undisturbed quiet continued to be his inquiry's only answer, Severus furrowed his brow as he let the ladle rest against the side of the cauldron.

He glided over to look down at his son as he asked, "....Harry Snape? I know you can hear me.....You will answer your father when he speaks to you!"

"I can't, Daddy." Harry whispered as he opened his large, green eyes to blink up at Severus.

".....May I ask why not?" Severus scowled.

".....Because the dragon has surely killed me." Harry whispered very seriously.

Severus kept his scowl on his face as he turned around and walked over to a tall, narrow chest in the corner of the room.

Silently, he opened one of the chest's drawers and removed a vial.

Severus swept back across the room, flipped the cap on top of the vial, and poured out a small amount of the mixture it contained over Harry.

The vial's label clearly read:

Tickle Tonic

A wide smile immediately manifested on Harry's face as he laughed and writhed at the delightfully silly sensation of unignorable tickling.

Severus had been careful to choose a dose that would ensure the tonic's effects on his son were amusing, but short-lived.

As the sensation of being tickled faded and Harry stilled, Severus helped his little boy back to his feet as he quipped, "Look at that.you've been healed."

Harry giggled for a moment until he wiped one eye with a hand and asked Severus worriedly as he glanced back at his toys that still lay on the stone floor, "Can you heal my armies too, Daddy?"

"In a moment.first, there's something I need to tell you that's very important." Severus revealed.

"What is it?" Harry asked in wonder as his large, green eyes widened even more while he stared up at Severus.

Severus crossed his arms and frowned at his eldest son as he ordered, "I don't want you to speak to the blue-faced mummy anymore, do you understand? Not a word.not a look.not anything at all. If you see her, I want you to shout for me, your mother, or your grandmother."

Harry blinked at Severus.

Severus continued to frown.

".....Do you understand what I'm asking of you?" Severus asked as Harry put a finger into his mouth.

"Yes, Daddy." Harry shrugged, "....But why?"

Severus drew in a silent breath as his mind raced frantically for a way to explain the situation to his child without frightening him.

He opened his mouth to find the words, but Harry mercifully released him from his task as he added, ".....I haven't seen the blue-faced mummy in a long time."

“.....Have you not?” Severus asked.

“No.” Harry confirmed as he shook his head.

Severus could see from the wide-eyed look of sincere intrigue in his little son’s adorable face that he had told the truth, but he wasn’t willing to let Harry learn that.....not yet.

A look of stark disappointment clouded his pale features.

Severus sighed deeply as if he had lost everything in the world while he looked away and admitted to Harry, “.....I don’t believe you.”

“But Daddy!” Harry cried, “I really haven’t seen the blue-faced mummy in a long time!”

Severus made a noise of disapproval in his throat as he walked back over to his cauldron with a morose expression on his face.

No creature on earth hated being ignored as badly as a toddler.

Although he was little more than a baby, Harry gathered the impression that his father attempted to make him laugh.....and it worked.

Harry laughed heartily with the wild joy of a happy child as he raced over to Severus, grabbed hold of his leg and clutched onto him as he insisted, “I’m telling the truth, Daddy!”

“The truth?.....That’s the same thing your mother promised me after I asked her about the cookies that went missing last night.” Severus sighed sadly.

“Daddy!” Harry laughed.

Severus had taken the cauldron’s ladle into his hand once more but he was forced to drop it as Harry began to climb.

By sliding himself up Severus, Harry made his way across his father’s legs, over his side, and onto his shoulders.

His tiny hands had nearly ripped Severus’s black cloak like a hanging curtain in the process.

“Daddy,” Harry reasoned as he gripped onto Severus as best he could while he blinked at him, “I came this far to let you know that I really really haven’t seen the blue-faced mummy in a long time.”

Severus could feel the strain on his robes that Lily had made for him as Harry relied on the strength of their seams to keep him secure in his new perch.

He tsked before he looked at his son and conceded defeat, “Very well.....I suppose you are telling the truth after all.”

Harry squealed joyfully.

Severus nearly had a heart attack when he felt his little boy let go without warning.

The happy toddler giggled while he slid down his father's ballooning, black cloak to land on the floor with a safe but ungraceful thump.

Severus whirled around to glare at Harry with his eyes narrowed as he let out a relieved breath and placed a hand over his racing heart.

"What's the matter, Daddy?" Harry blinked innocently.

"You could have gotten badly hurt!" Severus snapped, "Don't ever do that again!"

"I wasn't going to get hurt!" Harry laughed as he walked back over to his toys, "I knew how to do it because I thought about it for two whole minutes."

".....You honestly believe that two minutes of thinking gave you enough knowledge to make you an expert on the matter?" Severus asked with a stony scowl on his face.

"Yes." Harry said with absolute conviction as he knelt down on the floor and resumed his play.

"Do I spend two minutes only thinking about my potions?" Severus asked, "....Is that all that is needed to brew one successfully?"

Harry turned away from his toys and blinked at his father for a long moment before he glanced over at the cauldron and furrowed his tiny brow in deep concentration.

"No, Daddy....." He concluded after a pause of intense pondering, ".....You probably spend at least four minutes thinking about potions."

Severus felt the urge to smile tug at his lips.

The thought occurred to him that soon, he'd have not one but four rambunctious little boys climbing over him while he tried to work.

He couldn't help but wonder if his daughter would be just as mischievous.....

"How can I help you, my love?" Severus purred to Lily one afternoon as he cuddled with her in her nest.

"There's not much you can do, Sev. Sorry!" She chuckled quietly, "I just needed to lie down for a moment."

"You've never been dizzy before.....not with the others." Severus remarked with a worried frown.

The Snape family had been eating that afternoon when Lily had put a hand to her head and mentioned she felt as though she would faint.

Severus had rushed her upstairs to her nest and blotted her forehead with a cool rag.

It had frightened him to see the rapid onset and recovery of that worrying symptom.

“I’m feeling fine now.” Lily smiled at her mate, “It was only exhaustion....I’ll have a nap and then I’ll be back down with everyone.”

“Shall I call a healer?” He asked.

His black eyes looked as soft as molten ore as he gazed at Lily in deep concern.

“No, Sev!” She laughed, “I don’t need a healer.”

Severus watched her yawn as he pressed, “.....Perhaps I should stay with you?”

Lily grabbed his hand as she smiled and said, “As much as I’d love that, your mother could use your help more downstairs. There isn’t anything you can do for me while I’m asleep. Go and play with the boys for a while, I’ll be there soon.”

Severus leaned in and gave Lily a deep kiss as he whispered against her lips, “If you want me.....all you need to do is ask.”

“I always want you, Sev~.” Lily answered with the subtle hint of a smirk as he pulled away.

“If you need me.....” Severus added with a slight nod.

“I always need you too.” Lily reassured him as she turned herself onto her side and pulled the covers up to her shoulders.

Severus stole another quick kiss before he left the room and allowed his omega to get the rest her body craved.

Neither Severus nor Lily realized the precarious plight of her health.

Lily easily succumbed to drowsiness and fell into such a heavy sleep that her body used the cover of fatigue to mask the problems her insides faced.

While her physical form failed and her breathing grew shallow, no one noticed.

Downstairs, Severus, Eileen, and the Snape children heard nothing.

They assumed that Lily laid napping as they went on with their afternoon as if nothing was out of the ordinary.

No one knew that the lives of Severus’s wife and unborn child were in danger, except for the shadowy spirit that Harry had befriended, which lingered beside Lily’s nest with a frown on its distorted face.

Lily opened her eyes to a flat belly and a different world.

She blinked as she sat up in the unfamiliar bed and looked around the unfamiliar stone room.

As she glanced down, she found a long, antique dress on her body.

Her eyes widened as she realized that she was no longer in her home but what appeared to be an ancient castle as she stumbled out of bed and staggered over to the arched window.

Lily scowled in confusion as she looked out at the surrounding grounds.

Severus's explanation of the previous events that had happened on their property played through her mind like an eerie melody.

She grasped for a way to make sense of what she saw until a voice called out behind her, ".....Hello."

Lily spun around and saw a young woman standing in the room, although the door remained closed.

The woman wore a dress similar to the one Lily had woken in, but much finer, with ornate embellishments and intricate details.

"Hello....." She warily greeted her strange visitor, "I....."

The woman lifted her chin as she waited for Lily to finish.

"I.....must be having a very odd dream." Mrs. Snape concluded as she blinked.

"Everything here is real." The woman shrugged, "I found you in need of help so I brought you here as my guest. It shouldn't be long until your husband arrives, I'm alerting him now."

"What do you mean?" Lily asked as panic sprouted in her heart, "...Why is Severus coming here?.....Alerting him to what?! What's happened?!"

"My name is Gwendolyn of Garenwood." The woman explained to Lily, "Please don't be frightened. You've offered me respite in your home, I'm merely returning the favor."

Lily's mind reeled as she processed what the woman said until she swallowed dryly and stammered, "Am I.....Am I dead?"

"No." Gwendolyn replied with a pleasant smile, ".....Not yet."

Lily drew a deep breath as Gwendolyn stretched a hand towards her and asked, "I expect we have a few moments more until you wake and return. Would you like some tea?"

Severus sat on the living room sofa next to Eileen while they tended the boys and watched them play.

The sudden noise shattered their peace.

SLAM!

THUMP, THUMP, THUMP, THUMP, THUMP!

At first, it sounded like the entire upstairs of the house would come crumbling down on their heads.

The boys whimpered as Severus and Eileen exchanged incredulous glares with each other.

After several seconds, the noise began to come directly beneath Severus and Lily's bedroom, right around the place where her nest lay.

THUMP!

THUMP!

THUMP!

THUMP!

Eileen frowned worriedly as Severus rushed out of the living room and dashed up the staircase.

He grit his teeth as he raced down the hallway and charged towards his bedchamber.

Severus felt his pulse pound in his ears as fearful dread gnawed at the pit of his stomach.

He should have noticed it before he heard the noise.....the constant, sweet scent of his darling mate had vanished.

Chapter 41 - Tea with Gwendolyn

Thank you for reading! I don't own any of Harry Potter! Please let me know if you enjoy!
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The door to the bedroom burst open as Severus barged in with his pale face gaunt from panic.

His dark eyes widened as his mouth dropped open when he saw his beloved, pregnant mate lying unmoving in her nest.

Terror seized Severus when he noticed the unhealthy pallor of his wife's skin.

"LILY!" Severus cried as he rushed forward and scooped his mate into his arms, ".....Lily?!"

Her head rolled listlessly in his embrace as her eyes remained closed.

Severus grit his teeth while he shouted, "MOTHER! MOTHER....SEND FOR A HEALER!"

The shuffling noise of frantic motion came from downstairs as Eileen gathered the triplets and instructed Harry to follow her while they hurried to answer Severus's urgent call.

After Eileen made it to the bedroom doorway and found Severus holding her unconscious daughter-in-law, her dark eyes became as wide as her son's.

The Snape children blinked at their parents as Eileen cried out, ".....Severus! What's happened to the poor girl?!"

"I can't wake her!" He shouted in despair, "Send for a healer! Please, Mother, quickly!"

Eileen hastily dragged the boys away from the sight as she pulled out her wand and called for emergency magical healthcare.

"Is Mummy dying?" Harry asked Eileen as he blinked up at his grandmother while she slipped her wand back into the pocket of her robes.

"No, love, of course not!" Eileen nodded at her eldest grandchild, "Your Mummy's just a little out of sorts. A cup of tea and she'll be all better, yes?"

Harry stared at Eileen questioningly for a moment before he nodded.

He took comfort in the reassuring smile that spread across his grandmother's face, but Eileen faked her own calm confidence to soothe her tiny grandson's fears.

Secretly, she hoped with all of her heart that her words held unknown truth.

After the tragedies that her only son had endured, Eileen didn't want to think about what may become of Severus if he lost the light of his life along with his next child.

Beyond the impact that Lily's demise would have on her poor Severus, Eileen certainly didn't want to imagine a motherless future for her grandsons.

Emergency medical help was available to witches and wizards at an even faster speed than similar systems in the muggle world.

Less than two minutes after Eileen sent out her distress signal, a loud pop rang out as a team of uninformed healers appeared, ready to work, in the downstairs foyer of the Snapes' amazing home.

Eileen gasped when she heard the sound.

She raced down the hallway as she carried the triplets in her arms and guided little Harry to follow along.

As she dashed down the stairs and reached the bottom floor, the group of healers, made up of witches and wizards, blinked at her before one spoke calmly, "We received a call that someone at this residence is in need of medical attention, madam?"

Eileen sat two of the triplets at her feet before she pointed up the staircase as she declared, "My daughter-in-law! She's upstairs in the last bedroom at the end of the corridor! Hurry, please! She's an expectant mother.....she laid down for a nap....now we can't wake her and she's gone pale!"

The team of healers exchanged glances of concern before they followed the direction of Eileen's finger and rushed up the staircase.

In the bedroom, Severus had cast every safe charm, every spell, and every enchantment that he could possibly think of in a desperate effort to rouse Lily.

He chose not to leave her side in search of a potion for fear that he may miss her last breath in that terrible moment of blinding panic.

Severus tried one last waking spell and when that too failed to work, he all but collapsed in anguish.

A hoarse, gasping cry tore from his throat as he noticed Lily's lips turning colour as her skin cooled.

Bewildered and out of ideas as he faced the horrifying reality that his darling flower may decide to leave him behind, Severus clutched Lily to his chest as he rocked back and forth while tears streamed down his pale cheeks.

When the team of healers flooded into the bedroom, they were met by the sight of a suffering, pregnant woman and a broken man.

The emergency care healers were more than accustomed to seeing patients in situations of medical distress.

Severus's expression, however.....

As the healers charged forward and pried Lily out of his arms, they weren't sure what would haunt them more, Severus Snape's mournful cries or the look of complete, unbridled, mortal agony on his face.

The bright sunlight of the warm day beamed through the arched window as Lily sat in her antiquated dress, on an elegant chair across from Gwendolyn while they chatted over tea.

"I apologize about the delay, time moves slowly when it's like this." Gwendolyn nodded at Lily as both women took sips of their drinks.

".....When it's like what exactly?" Lily asked.

"This." Gwendolyn cryptically replied.

Lily blinked at her for a moment before she nodded and asked, "You said that you've made my home a respite.....Are you the.....Are you the one my son has been seeing?"

"Your son?.....The little boy?" Gwendolyn asked with a smile, "With dark hair and large, green eyes?"

"Yes, that's him." Lily grinned, "Harry."

"Oh, the little dear!" Gwendolyn exclaimed as she sighed deeply and clutched her cup close to her chest, "I apologize if I've frightened him at all. I merely sought to see him smile, he's such a darling thing he is.....although his brothers are too."

Lily felt anxiousness build in the air as she contemplated her next question.

"Have we.....Have we done anything to disturb you?" Lily asked, "I don't quite recognize the land in this time period, but if it's the same area that my family and I live on now, I must beg your pardon. We had no idea."

"Of course you didn't." Gwendolyn nodded, "How could you? These castle ruins are long gone in your time.....I've seen several families come and go over the centuries, in different homes. It's alright, really, it is. You see, no one's ever lived here with so many adorable children before and I.....I couldn't help but introduce myself. I do love children!"

Lily frowned as she remembered the sad story of the muggle princess that Severus had mentioned.

".....I never had the privilege of holding my own." Gwendolyn revealed with a bitter smile as she met Lily's emerald gaze.

The situation had seemed eerie and uncomfortable to Lily at first, but during her lengthy chat with Gwendolyn of Garenwood, her opinion had changed.

Despite the bizarreness of her current predicament, Lily felt no fear, no qualms, and sensed absolutely no threat.

She reached over and grasped Gwendolyn's hand as she spoke, "Well, you seem to make my little boy very happy. We'd be glad to have you with us, if you'd prefer to stay."

"Do you speak the truth?!" Gwendolyn asked as her eyes widened, "No one's ever allowed me to be part of their family before! I could.....I could read to the children....and catch them when they fall!.....I could finally have a place to belong!"

"Of course." Lily nodded with a smile, "We were frightened because we thought you intended to harm us."

"I would never harm anyone." Gwendolyn spoke with a pout, "Admittedly though, I am a bit jealous."

"Jealous?" Lily laughed, "Forgive me, but I should be jealous of you! I'm a commoner and you're a princess!"

"Titles do not bring happiness." Gwendolyn said as she flashed Lily a beautiful, radiant smile.

Lily's own smile faded as she watched Gwendolyn's fair face start to rot away before her very eyes.

"It looks like your husband succeeded, Lily Snape." Gwendolyn said as her arms, soft and full with the flush of life, began to wither into skeletal sticks, "Our time together has come to an end.....Thank you for your kindness to me! Remember, you have the luxury of obtaining the bliss that I failed to know on this earth!"

As Gwendolyn spoke, the castle began to crack and crumble around Lily.

The two women were pulled apart as they traveled in opposite directions.

Lily cried out before Gwendolyn disappeared from her view, "What luxury are you talking about?!?"

Gwendolyn's answer came in a howling cry before she was dragged away, "The joys that come with family.....and love!"

Lily's eyes fluttered open slowly while Gwendolyn's words echoed through her mind.

For a moment, she thought that surely she must have dreamed the entire encounter.

However, as her bedroom came into focus, she pressed her tongue against the roof of her mouth and realized that she could still taste the distinct tea she had sipped with Gwendolyn of Garenwood.

The distinct blend of leaves and herbs had been unlike any other Lily had ever tasted, not better, not worse, but unique, a recipe from centuries past.

Lily had barely blinked her eyes open all the way before she heard a deep sigh of liberating relief as someone took her hand and a low voice gasped, "Oh, Lily!"

As she fully returned to consciousness, Lily glanced over and saw Severus beside her in her nest.

The sounds of the emergency care healers discussing their findings caused her to turn her head.

Lily narrowed her eyes at the medical team as they studied the data they had collected from her measurements while they packed up their supplies and conversed with each other.

".....Who are they?" Lily asked Severus before she thought out loud, ".....What are they doing here?"

Before he could answer, Lily quickly turned back towards him and asked, "What's happened, Sev?"

"You experienced a medical emergency brought on by an embolism." Severus explained through clenched teeth as he took Lily's hand.

".....What?" Lily blinked.

"It's rare for healthy women your age, even for muggles, but it can happen without warning, as the healers explained to me.....Apparently, it's possible for an expectant mother to lie down for a rest and never wake up." Severus explained.

Lily drew in a breath as Severus continued, "You would have been gone from this world forever if two minutes more would have elapsed before the healers arrived.....Those were their exact words.....Forgive me, my love, I didn't realize anything was out of the ordinary until I heard-"

"-Until Gwendolyn sent you." Lily smiled knowingly.

"I beg your pardon?" Severus asked as he furrowed his brow.

"I just had tea in a medieval castle with Gwendolyn of Garenwood! You remember, don't you, Sev? The muggle princess you mentioned?" Lily asked.

Severus's face twisted into an incredulous scowl.

"What are you saying, my love....?" He asked.

"I'm saying that we don't have to be afraid anymore!" Lily happily revealed as she reached up and combed her fingers through Severus's dark hair, "I've met the blue-faced mummy, Sev, and she's really quite lovely!"

Severus narrowed his eyes at Lily as he drawled, “.....Now, now, my love, don’t excite yourself. The healers gave me a variety of potions and tonics to administer over the next few weeks, but they did warn that this.....incident.....may cause you a bit of confusion.....”

“I’m not confused!” Lily insisted as she struggled to sit up in bed.

A wave of dizziness in response to her sudden change in blood pressure sent a hand flying to her head.

Severus lunged forward to help her settle back against the soft pillows of her nest.

“Don’t you see?” Lily asked Severus with a weak smile.

“What is that I’m meant to see, Lily?” He asked as he placed a gentle kiss on her pink lips.

“She told me she called you, Sev.” Lily said with a wry smile.

Severus’s black eyes widened as he thought about the inexplicable, cacophonous noise that had led him upstairs.

Lily flashed him a bright, grateful smile as she explained, “The blue-faced mummy saved my life.”

Chapter 42 - Love's Embrace

Thank you for reading! I don't own any of Harry Potter! Please let me know if you enjoy!
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Lily's frightening predicament would have more than likely killed a muggle woman.

The advancements made in magical healthcare not only offered Mrs. Snape an astounding survival from such a perilous situation, but also provided her with a shortened recovery time of only a few weeks.

Severus helped Lily adhere to a strict sleeping schedule under the healers' orders with timed naps each afternoon and frequent, short walks to ensure that her blood pressure stayed steady.

Lily followed the advice she had been given.

She obediently swallowed the prescribed potions and tonics that her alpha offered her after every meal.

Although a healer came to examine Lily several times a week, Eileen and Severus both kept a close watch on her every hour.

As time passed, Lily continued to make progress towards healing.

Her belly started to round and her cheeks began to glow.

Severus worried about his wife and insisted that Lily's healer maintain a schedule of at least one visit a week, but Lily seemed to shrug off her harrowing misfortune.

As she felt her alpha's little one start to move inside her womb, it was difficult for Mrs. Snape to wear any other expression than a smile.

The season brought with it blue skies full of bright sunshine.

As a result, the Snape family began to spend large portions of their days outside enjoying the pleasant weather.

Eileen usually read a book while she sat under the shade of a large tree, a short distance away from Severus and Lily.

The couple relaxed in the wicker chairs on the small patio under the tree's ample shade while they watched Harry and his brothers play together on the lawn.

During one tranquil afternoon, Lily watched her babies laugh as Severus raised her hand to his lips and pressed a tender kiss against her knuckles.

“Feeling alright, my love?” He asked as his dark eyes flickered down to the swell of Lily’s belly.

“I feel fine, Sev!” She beamed.

Lily raised a hand and pointed out towards the place the boys occupied on the lawn as she laughed, “Look, there! I think Credence just picked his first flower.”

Harry played with his other two brothers while tiny Credence held the flower in his chubby little fist and frowned down at it in curiosity.

“It seems that he has.....” Severus mused as he watched his son open one of his little hands to very gently stroke the delicate petals of the flower’s blossom with his small finger.

“You used to look at flowers like that when you were his age too, Severus.” Eileen interjected as she glanced up from her book.

Lily smiled as she looked over at her husband and mother-in-law, “Ah, well, that’s interesting, isn’t it? Perhaps Credence will grow up to be a potioneer like his father!”

Severus felt Lily squeeze his hand affectionately as he stared at his small son and whispered, “.....Perhaps he shall.”

Since Lily’s impromptu tea date with the deceased muggle princess, the blue-faced mummy no longer remained an imposing figure of terror in the Snape household.

Comfortable with revealing herself to all members of the family, Gwendolyn’s apparition took on a form similar in visibility and functionality to that of Hogwarts’ ghosts.

Although she was transparent, her smile radiated from her pale face whenever she had the opportunity of interacting with the Snape children.

Each night, Harry and the triplets scurried to have their baths completed and their teeth brushed on time so that they could listen to the blue-faced mummy’s stories.

Ghosts were limited as to what they could do, but even the lingering spirits of muggles could put on a good show by changing a bit of their wispy appearance into a sort of gossamer theater that displayed recalled scenes and events.

Every night, the Snape children gathered in Harry’s room and listened to the elaborate stories that Gwendolyn of Garenwood told while Severus, Lily, and Eileen looked on.

The ghost of the tragic muggle princess had lived ages ago. She had plenty of fascinating anecdotes to tell the eager little boys about knights, kings, wars, and dragons.....all of which intrigued Harry and the triplets.

It made Severus smirk in amusement to watch his sons sit and listen with their large eyes bulging out of their adorable faces in wonder as the ghost that haunted their home showcased

old legends for them in great detail.

Lily and Gwendolyn developed a sort of unspoken friendship.

Gwendolyn felt grateful that someone had finally given her a place to feel welcomed.

On top of her obvious gratitude, it pleased Lily to see her sons happy and entertained.

Eileen remained indifferent, but while Severus was less than thrilled that a ghost told his children stories every night, he couldn't begrudge Gwendolyn of Garenwood.

Severus understood that without the assistance offered by Gwendolyn's ghost, his darling Lily would have died.

For that reason, he maintained an ample supply of somber gratitude.

As the weeks melted into months, the family began to feel a sense of underlying excitement.

Although Severus continued to attend the meetings necessary regarding his title, check on his apothecary, and conduct his own research, his thoughts were largely occupied by Lily and their unborn baby.

During the times when Severus was home, Eileen went with Lily to shop for the newest Snape's nursery. At the expectant mother's request, the room was decorated in frilly pink, with elegant curtains, and a cot lined with strawberry-printed sheets.

Lily often busied herself in the new baby's room, while the triplets and Harry tumbled at her feet in their enchanted playpen.

Her energy lessened and her appetite increased as the birth drew near, but Lily continued to adhere to the regimen that her healthcare providers had recommended.

One evening, after Eileen helped her son and daughter-in-law put the boys to bed, she retired to her room.

Lily went to the nursery while Severus finished bottling a batch of Pain Potion in his basement brewing chamber.

Her heavy breasts strained against the confines of her night robe as she fluffed a blanket that laid over the rocking chair by the window.

Lily put a hand on her lower back as she walked over and opened one of the dresser drawers.

She sighed as she began to unpack and refold the soft, pastel, skirted onesies that already laid in neat rows.

"Shouldn't you be in your nest, Mrs. Snape?" A low rumble called from the doorway.

Lily laid a hand on her belly as she glanced over and smiled at Severus who frowned at her with his arms crossed.

As she drew in a breath, he watched her full breasts heave with the motion before his dark stare moved to her bulging womb that protruded proudly like a wrapped gift under the tie of her robe.

“Your daughter kept me awake so I decided to make myself useful.” Lily smiled while she resumed her work and went back to folding the tiny clothes.

Severus glided towards her.

Silently, he wrapped his arms around her as he purred into her ear, “Shall we try again, then, my love? I have no intention of having anymore danger come to my mate.....You’re too near your time to be wandering around on your feet.”

“I’m supposed to go on walks, remember?” Lily asked as she turned her head and looked up at Severus while he cradled her belly.

Severus felt his heart skip a beat as Lily’s green eyes sparkled at him like blazing emeralds.

Her soft, plump lips reminded him about the rest of her supple curves.

Before he could stifle the passion that his darling ignited in his veins, he moved forward and gave his beloved flower a deep, loving kiss.

Lily cooed in delight as she returned her husband's affection and tenderly placed a hand on his cheek while his large palms encircled her swollen abdomen.

“Oh, Sev.....” Lily whispered against his lips, “Touch me.....”

Severus growled in his throat as he reluctantly pulled away after he treated himself to one last, sharp nip of Lily’s sweet lips.

The whimper that escaped her throat made Severus want to hear more but he forced himself to keep a stoic restraint on his desires.

“Lily.....?” Severus whispered as he felt his heavily pregnant wife start to grind her round bottom against the center of his trousers.

“.....Yeah?” Lily asked in a breathless gasp as Severus let his hands move away from her belly to hold her widened hips.

“I think our little one’s on the way.” He whispered as he kissed her cheek, released his hold on her, and took a step back.

Lily’s glowing cheeks had flushed with arousal but her eyes widened and her jaw dropped open in bitter disappointment as Severus regarded her with a calm confidence.

“Sev!.....What?! How can you be so cruel?!” Lily pouted.

“Whenever our children prepare to be born, you nest and crave my affections.” Severus wisely surmised. He stretched a hand towards his omega as he offered, “Let me lead you to your nest, my love, so that you can rest for the work ahead. It’s important you have your strength when the pains of labour begin.”

Lily glared at Severus as if he had just cheated her out of a fine meal she should have been able to enjoy.

She frowned as she reluctantly took his hand and let him escort her back to her nest.

Severus clutched Lily securely in his embrace as he lowered her onto the mound of blankets and pillows a moment later while he tried not to breathe deeply.

The intoxicating mixture of hormones and pheromones that wafted from her skin could easily send him into a feral frenzy, but Severus held his resolve.

He hadn’t anticipated that his mate would lay such a cunning trap for him.

As soon as Severus had settled Lily safely in her nest, he walked across their bedroom, turned his back, and changed into his nightclothes.

When he faced his wife again to join her in their fluffy bed, his mouth fell open as his dark eyes widened.

Lily had arranged the pillows underneath herself to support the burdensome weight of her breasts and belly as she knelt on her hands and knees, with her hips spread wide.

Severus’s sleeping trousers tightened painfully quickly as he grit his teeth and actively resisted the urge to palm at his groin.

“Please, Sev.....?” Lily asked in a pitiful whimper as she looked over at him with a forlorn pout, “All I need is you.”

All I need is you.

Her words, her scent, her aching, waiting body, it was far too much for Severus to ignore.

Lily drew in a breath as her alpha silently padded over, with his mouth still open and his brow furrowed in disbelief.

She felt the thrilling touch of Severus’s hands as he reached out and possessively grasped her hips.

Lily’s pulse accelerated as his fingers began to knead her soft flesh.

Relief flooded her system as Severus placed soft kisses along her sore back.

Lily had known that no matter what Severus said, or what resolve he claimed to have, he remained defenceless against her.

She closed her eyes as her alpha began to soothe the pesky aches and pains that plagued her in late pregnancy.

Lily Snape could always depend on Severus to set her free~.

Chapter 43 - New Arrival

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After a crippling fatigue overcame Lily the next day, she spent the morning dozing in her nest.

Eileen took her little grandsons to Hogsmeade for an afternoon of shopping while Severus went to his bedroom and checked on his flower.

Lily yawned and blinked her eyes open as he sat on the edge of her nest.

"Are you alright, my love?" Severus asked with a concerned frown.

"I'm fine, Sev." Lily answered as she stretched, "I am terribly drowsy, though. I'm not certain why! I've slept for hours."

"Are you having any pain?" Severus asked quickly as a terse expression washed over his pale face, ".....Shall I call the midwife?"

"No." Lily shook her head, "I feel fine, I'm only sleepy."

"Perhaps I should call the midwife regardless and ask for an exam?" Severus frowned.

"Perhaps you should lie beside me and hold me for a while instead." Lily mused as she gazed up at her alpha.

Severus felt his mouth go dry as his mate settled herself on a mound of fluffy pillows and stared at him from her comfortable spot in her nest.

As his dark gaze scanned over Lily's beautiful, glowing face, her wavy, crimson tresses that fanned behind her head, and the swirls of her cotton nightdress that barely contained her full breasts, Severus felt his heart flutter.

"Lily....." He began as he attempted to hold onto rational thought.

He shouldn't join her there, not again.

They had already ignored the advanced stage of Lily's pregnancy by spending the previous evening making love.

He knew from the look in his wife's bright, emerald eyes that if he lay beside her, she would attempt to seduce him into activities beyond simple embraces of comfort.

".....For a moment or two, Sev?" Lily pleaded with a pout.

Severus's expression of silent reverence melted into a frown as he watched the unhappiness on his wife's face until he stood with a sigh.

Lily smirked victoriously from her nest as she saw him shed his clothing and pull his nightshirt on before he crawled under the covers.

She decided to gain her final triumph discreetly as she settled against him after he pulled her into his arms.

A beguiling sigh escaped her plump lips as she laid a hand on his chest, with the crushing weight of her breasts squished between them while she whispered, "You're so warm and strong, Sev. It feels lovely here, in your arms."

Severus clenched his jaw as Lily glanced up and laughed, "You treat me so well! I don't deserve a mate as caring and as kind as--"

Having never received many from anyone before Lily, compliments remained an excellent way for Severus's wife to gain his attention.

Before she could finish speaking, he pressed his lips against hers in a deep kiss.

Lily relaxed against him as she raised a hand and placed it lovingly on his cheek in a subtle yet powerful signal of encouragement.

Severus gladly accepted Lily's invitation.

She shrieked in delight as he vanished her nightdress and panties with a wandless, nonverbal spell before he began to kiss and touch his way across her bare body.

Although his affection seemed tortuously restrained, Lily waited in eager anticipation for her hormones to drive her husband over the edge.

After their tender exchange failed to progress into coupling, Lily asked her alpha as he kissed his way across her inner thigh, "Sev.....?"

".....Yes?" He asked as he glanced up.

"What are you waiting for?" Lily laughed with a soft smile, "Is our love and my scent not enough for you to take me?"

Severus's black eyes smouldered as he kept her thigh clutched in his hand while he answered, "Your scent is sweeter than any flower, my love. However, I can't help but notice you carried this same fragrance in the hours before our sons were born.....I would dearly relish taking you into my arms, but unfortunately, I'm waiting for the birth.....I wouldn't dare bring you or our youngest pup any harm."

Lily stared at Severus longingly.

Her chest heaved with a great sigh.

She didn't understand why his words and thoughtful actions upset her.

In a part of her mind, she knew her reaction and her desire had been exaggerated, but that didn't stop the tears that welled in her eyes.

"Lily....." Severus frowned as he watched his wife start to weep.

"I understand, Sev." Lily whispered as she raised her hands to her face and began to wipe away the pesky tears that poured from her eyes, ".....I understand."

"Oh, Lily!" Severus exclaimed as he furrowed his brow in sympathy and bent forward.

He pressed his lips against his lover's once more and realized he had been captured.

It may have been her scent, her tears, her kiss, or all of those factors combined, but as Lily guided Severus's hand under her belly and down to her womanhood, he growled at the wetness his fingertips found there.

After he carefully helped his wife into a comfortable position, her hypnotic kiss guided him to slip into her as he nipped at her throat and squeezed her heavy breasts in his hands.

While Eileen continued her shopping errand with her grandsons, Lily gripped the bedsheets in her hands as happy tears dripped from her eyes.

Severus felt the hairs on the back of his neck raise as his mate opened her lips and screamed his name, "SSSSSSEEEEEVVVV!"

His touch was too gentle.

The pleasure that the careful rolls of his hips brought made Mrs. Snape weep with satisfaction.

In the moments after their encounter, Severus glared at Lily while he laid in her nest with her on his shoulder as she stole gentle kisses from his lips.

"After you're well enough, my love, I'll have to punish you." Severus surmised as he stared at his wife, "You've been very naughty these past few hours. Did I not say again and again that our coupling should have been delayed?"

"You can punish me however you like, Sev." Lily smirked as she nipped his lips and stared boldly into his black eyes, "It was worth it.....Look at it this way, you did your job, didn't you? I thought it was an alpha's responsibility to keep his mate satisfied."

"It's an alpha's responsibility to keep his mate.....and his family.....safe." Severus reasoned, "Safety and satisfaction do not always coincide."

Lily scoffed as she started to chide, "That's no matter, it rea-

Severus watched the playfulness disappear from his wife's expression as she looked away and drew in a sharp breath.

"Lily?" Severus asked quickly as he sat up, "What's the matter, my love? What's wrong?"

"I.....it's fine, Sev." Lily said after a long moment of silent tension as she lay on her side next to him and swallowed dryly, "I believe you were right though.....Can you....Can you call the midwife, please?"

Severus didn't bother answering before he bolted out of the nest, grabbed his wand, and quickly performed the necessary summoning spell.

Lily watched him the entire time until he returned his wand to the nightstand and crawled back into her nest to hold her close.

"She'll be here soon, my love." He whispered as he kissed his flower's forehead. A smirk dared to cross his lips as he whispered, "I did warn you.....it pleases me to see that my assumptions were correct after all."

"H-Hold me, Sev....." Lily whispered as she clutched onto her husband and closed her eyes while the next wave of pain threatened to erupt in her belly.

Severus's smug expression faded as he wrapped his arms around Lily and rubbed soothing circles into her lower back.

He could already feel her belly tensing as she faced him.

It made him frown to see his wife in pain.

He hoped that Lily would have an easier birth than she did with the triplets' arrival.

There had been few times in Severus Snape's life when he had wanted help so badly.

Three hours later, Eileen continued her shopping trip with her grandsons and the midwife had been apparently.....delayed?

It became blatantly obvious that Lily would not have to endure the lengthy labour that the triplets had forced upon her, although as Severus scrambled to help her get comfortable it frightened him that help may not arrive on time.

Lily gripped his hand tight through every spasm.

Severus held her steady, whether he massaged her back or let her cling to his shoulders while she knelt in her nest and rocked her body against the throes of agony.

Her low groans escalated into loud, pained cries alarmingly quickly.

As he watched his wife cradle her belly with her eyes clenched shut, Severus began to understand what he would have to do.

After one particularly difficult pain, Lily lay on her side in her nest while he rubbed her leg soothingly until he felt the blankets and pillows dampen with a sudden deluge of fluid.

“.....Lily?” He asked in his velvet voice.

He used his tone to skillfully conceal his apprehension.

Lily whimpered as she panted through the last of the pain.

He brushed her red hair out of her face as she drew in gasps of air to steady herself during the few, fleeting seconds of rest, but the next hard cramp arrived too quickly.

“S-SEVVVVVV!” Lily cried as her hands flew to her belly while her eyes widened.

Severus reached over, grabbed his wand, cleaned the bed with one flick of his wrist, and shouted over his wife’s cry, “ACCIO TOWEL!”

Lily opened her mouth as a deep groan left her chest while Severus hurriedly propped her up on the pillows and parted her knees.

As a clean towel came soaring into the room, he stretched a hand out and caught it in his grasp without looking away from his darling.

“Lily, my love,” He said gently as he laid a sympathetic hand on her thigh while his dark eyes flickered from her opened center to her face, “My love, try not to bear down yet.”

“I.....CAN’T!” Lily shrieked as she curled forward involuntarily.

Severus frowned while he clutched the towel and cupped his hands around his darling’s entrance to gently cradle the head of his youngest child as it began to emerge.

Panic mixed with pain in Lily’s expression as she felt her body stretch.

She reached out blindly and grasped Severus’s forearms as she drew in a shuddering breath while she gasped, “T-The m-midwife’s n-not here yet! Help! HELP! I-I need help!”

“I have you, my darling.” Severus’s soothing whisper came as he gazed at Lily with burning devotion in his black eyes, “Lily...look at me.”

Severus watched his wife’s face contort as a terrified sob marred her fair features.

“Lily,” He calmly commanded, “Look.....at.....me.”

In her anguish, Lily moved her emerald eyes to Severus’s face as she felt another tortuous pain threaten to overtake her.

“You and I can do this, my love,” Severus told his mate in absolute confidence, “Listen to your body and listen to me.....We can birth this child the same way we conceived it..... together.”

Lily stared at Severus as a noise between a scream and a sob tore from her lips as her belly tightened with another merciless contraction.

Severus watched her squeeze her eyes shut as her knees parted instinctively while she curled forward to bear down.

“That’s it, goddess, follow your instincts!” Severus cried as he focused on his task.

A small, slippery body slid into his hands as Lily screamed out,
“SSSSSSSEEEEEVVVVVV!”

“WWWAAAAAA!”

“WWWWAAAAA!”

Severus’s expression of concentration changed to one of shocked awe as he became the first person to hold his youngest pup.

Lily gasped as she peered over the swell of her belly and watched her alpha cradle their squirming, dirty newborn in his arms.

Severus was as aghast as his mate about the suddenness of the birth, but adrenaline mixed with joy as he scanned over their new infant and glanced up at his flower to announce,
“.....You were right, my love.”

Lily let out a breath.

Severus’s face was a mask of reverence as he gazed at Lily and revealed, “.....We have a beautiful daughter.”

Snily 44 - Daughter of Severus

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“Let me hold her!” Lily cried as she reached her trembling arms towards Severus.

The primal sound of his mate's request broke his heart.

Severus abandoned the selfish moment he had taken to stare at his new daughter in awe as he hurriedly passed the baby to Lily.

She drew in a long gasp as she cradled her little one to her chest while a bright smile danced across her lips.

Once he recovered his senses enough to think clearly, Severus cast the summoning spell again with an added urgency charm as a frantic signal to the midwife.

He pocketed his wand after he severed the umbilical cord with a simple slicing spell.

As he silently replayed the births of his other children in his mind and tried to determine what postpartum care he would need to perform for Lily, his thoughts were called away by the sublime sight of his mate and daughter meeting each other.

The infant stared up at her mother while she moved her tiny fingers.

“Hello!” Lily whispered to their little girl as the baby blinked her large eyes.

When the newborn let out a soft squeal in reply, Lily glanced up and met Severus's eyes with a beaming smile.

“She's beautiful, Sev.” Lily whispered as silent tears slipped down her cheeks while she admired her newborn.

Severus allowed himself the luxury of moving to sit behind Lily for a moment as they gazed down at their little daughter together.

“She has her mother's gorgeous hair and eyes.” He whispered as he pressed a gentle kiss to Lily's cheek.

At the very top of the baby's head, underneath the evidence of its recent birth, tufts of matted, red hair were clearly visible.

Although the Snapes' daughter had been in the world mere minutes, her emerald eyes sparkled like fine jewels in her chubby, little face as she pouted at her parents.

Lily and Severus both watched their baby blink at them curiously as she cooed.

“You’ve made me immensely happy, my love. You did so well.” Severus praised his wife as he turned his head and pressed another gentle kiss to Lily’s cheek.

“Sev……” Lily whispered as she laid her head against his shoulder.

The pleasantness of that blissful moment faded away into descending darkness as Lily tensed.

“What’s the matter?” Severus asked with mortal concern permeating his low voice,
“……Lily? What’s wrong? Do you feel unwell?!”

“I……I hurt again!” Lily whimpered as she cradled her baby in one hand and placed the other over her abused womb.

“Where?!” Severus gasped as the baby let out a quiet whine, “Do you think you’re carrying another?”

“No, it’s just……it’s what happens. It’s the after part!” Lily huffed miserably as she tried to shift into a more comfortable spot against her mound of pillows.

Severus’s face twisted in concern as he pondered how he should assist his wife with the last bit of the birthing process.

Admittedly, during the moments that followed his other children’s arrival, Severus had usually focused on his bride and his pups, not the midwife’s actions.

Lily barely managed to lay the baby next to herself before she gripped her knees and hunched forward.

Severus tried to hold his nerves steady as his mind raced for a solution of how best to help.

Should he attempt to aid Lily by using his hands?

Should he let her finish the last of her work without his assistance?

Should he cast another spell to call for the help that apparently wasn’t ever coming?

Should-

As Lily sank back against the pillows with a groan, Severus stared at her in concern when a loud pop rang out from down the hallway.

Severus whipped his head in the direction of the sound and harnessed his vexed irritation to call out, “IN HERE!……MY WIFE NEEDS HELP!”

Footsteps came running down the hall until the door to the bedroom flew open as the midwife rushed inside.

Her eyes widened as she glanced from Lily, who lay on the bed with her legs spread and the blankets soiled underneath her, to the little newborn, to Severus, who wore a threatening glare.

“Where have you been?!” Severus demanded in a venomous whisper, “My poor mate has had to give birth on her own!”

The midwife brushed aside Severus’s angry words and hurried over to tend to her patient.

Lily smiled up at her husband as he took her hand while the midwife sterilized herself with a wave of her wand and removed a clean towel from her bag.

“That isn’t true, Sev.” Lily whispered through her pain, “I wasn’t alone.....I had you.”

“Alright, dear,” The midwife said as she scowled at Lily’s center and ignored the conversation, “If I can have you bear down once or twice more, I think we’ll have everything finished up with the birth.”

Lily squeezed Severus’s hand and hunched forward as a lesser pain gripped her middle.

In his state of bewilderment, Severus asked the midwife to silence his nagging suspicions, “Is there another child?”

“No, Mr. Snape.” The midwife said with a knowing grin as Lily groaned through her effort, “.....But there is a rather large placenta.”

The midwife had been correct.

The Snape family only gained one new member that day.

After the magical healthcare worker finished assisting Lily, she cleaned mother, baby, and the bed by using a specialized charm employed by those in her vocation.

Regardless of the kind care she had provided to Mrs. Snape since her arrival, Severus glowered at the woman while Lily and their new baby took a brief but restful nap.

“I have half a mind to file a complaint with your practice!” Severus hissed in a low whisper, “I cast a summoning charm hours ago! May I inquire as to why it took such an insufferably long time for someone to aid us?!”

The midwife blinked at Severus for a moment.

“Well?!” He snarled.

“You have my sincerest apologies, Mr. Snape.” The midwife nodded, “However, I’m afraid we never received any trace of a summoning charm from this residence hours ago. We only have a record of one such enchantment being cast at this address today, a request which I answered less than five minutes later.”

Severus frowned at the midwife as she shrugged and added, “There have been a few issues with signal transmission recently, due to the remodeling of the office next to ours. We believe that sometimes the limestone they’re using for the floors blocks certain spells from reaching

our posting board.....Your wife is one of our friendliest patients and we do hope that you'll continue to use our services, should your family expand again."

Severus kept his frown as the midwife collected her bag and walked towards the bedroom door.

Before she left, she turned and asked him, "....Mr. Snape?"

".....Yes?" Severus replied in a voice barely loud enough to be audible.

"You did an excellent job with your mate in her time of need! I must say though, I am quite surprised that a wizard as steely-nerved as you allowed himself to succumb to panic!" The midwife laughed quietly.

"Panic?" Severus questioned as he narrowed his eyes.

As he recalled the day's events, he remembered doing his best to be courageous for Lily.

He had worked very hard to conceal the fear he had felt in an effort to comfort his struggling omega.

"Yes, sir." The midwife nodded with a sly grin, "In a calmer situation, I'm sure a wizard as capable as yourself would have been able to notice the brief flash of red that announced your initial summoning spell was not received."

Severus's scowl fell away as a look of mortification crossed his pale face.

"That fleeting burst of red that lets the sender know the message did not reach us?" The midwife blinked.

Severus felt sick with shame as he thought back and realized he had dismissed the spontaneous, scarlet flash in his peripheral vision as a trick of the light.

"Thank you....." He murmured to the midwife in his deep, velvet voice, ".....For your assistance."

"You have a beautiful wife and a lovely daughter, Mr. Snape." The midwife nodded, "You should be very proud."

Severus clenched his jaw as he watched the midwife turn and walk out of the room.

After he heard her apparate from the hallway, he glanced over at Lily and the baby with a solemn frown.

His eyes widened when he realized that his bride was awake.

"Lily!" Severus gasped, "How-"

"I heard, Sev. I heard it all." Lily sighed.

Severus braced himself for the verbal lashing he felt he deserved, but his mate giggled as she looked at him.

“I’m not angry!” Lily declared with a happy laugh, “What I said was true. I wasn’t alone, you were right beside me the entire time. I never could have done it without you, Sev.”

“My love, I beg you to forgive me!” Severus implored Lily as he swept over and sat at her side, careful not to wake their baby, “It was never my intention to deny you care or force you to endure such pain.”

“The pain is unavoidable, Sev.” Lily said with a dismissive wave. She took Severus’s hand into hers as she smiled up at him and remarked, “Actually, if you remember, the midwives were out of the room for the majority of my labour with the triplets. I thought it was rather nice this time, just you and I here, together.”

Severus squeezed Lily’s hand as they stared at each other for a long moment.

As Severus bent forward and kissed his beloved mate, the opportunity to snuggle Lily in her nest seemed to present itself.....until their newborn daughter started to whimper.

Eileen’s eyes widened when she returned with her grandsons that evening to discover the baby had been born.

Severus watched his mother smile proudly in adoration as she stared down at her newest grandchild and first granddaughter.

The triplets blinked at the baby while Eileen cradled the infant for the first time, but they asked very few questions, seemingly more content to play with each other than to stare at the uninteresting new baby.

Harry had more curiosity about the situation.

“That’s my sister?” He asked Severus as he pointed to the bundle in Eileen’s arms.

“Indeed.” Severus nodded.

“Was I that small once, Daddy?” Harry asked as he blinked his large eyes at Severus.

“You were smaller than that when you were born.” Severus told his son.

Harry stared at Severus questioningly before he looked at the baby in Eileen’s arms again.

It made Severus smirk to see the interest in Harry’s expression as he watched his newborn sister closely.

After spending years wishing that he had siblings himself, Severus held onto the silent hope that one day, his children would develop strong bonds with each other.

Severus's vision of a family extended past the simple idea of reproducing with Lily.

The relationships of unconditional love were what Severus felt would make a happy home.

That evening, after Eileen had helped her son put the boys to bed, Lily nursed their small daughter while Severus sat behind her and let her lay against him.

"What shall we name her?" Lily asked as she stroked their daughter's tiny tufts of scarlet hair.

".....Ixora." Severus nodded.

Lily looked at him with wide eyes.

"Sev!" She exclaimed.

"You're named after a flower." He blinked, "I'd prefer our daughter be as well."

"Ixora?!" Lily laughed, "The sex flower?!"

"That is not what ixora blooms represent in the magical world's language of flowers." Severus scowled, "Ixora stands for enduring passion and deep love. I think it's a perfectly suitable name for our small princess."

Lily smirked as she reached up and kissed her alpha's lips sweetly.

Severus resisted the urge to purr as his darling pulled away and looked down at the baby in her arms while she mused out loud, "Very well then.....Ixora Snape.....I think that's a lovely name."

Chapter 45 - The Best Daddy

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The Snape family spent the following weeks adjusting to the changes that came with welcoming yet another new baby into their home.

Eileen was one of the busiest grandmothers in the wizarding world as she juggled assisting her son with tending Harry, the triplets, and doing everything she could to look after her daughter-in-law and granddaughter.

Severus became reacquainted with the blissful exhaustion that followed a baby's birth.

Other alphas knew that feeling much less, but Severus did his absolute best to be a loving, supportive mate to Lily while she recovered from the birth and tended to their new daughter.

Whenever Ixora cried for milk, Severus brought her to her mother.

He made Lily tea.

He watched the children and gave his wife quiet moments of peace to read, bathe, and relax.

There were many omegas who could only dream of having such a thoughtful, compassionate mate.

Little Ixora was a quiet baby who made her appearance into the family as easy for her parents and grandmother as possible.

She only cried when she felt unwell or her tiny tummy ached from hunger.

Severus's daughter slept through the night by the time she celebrated her second month of life.

During cuddle sessions, she cooed softly as she stared up into the face of the person who held her close, as if she were searching for answers.

Lily greatly enjoyed caring for her little girl in her frilly, pink nursery as the triplets tumbled together at her feet.

There were times when Harry played with his brothers and other times when he would stand beside Lily and watch her nurse his sister.

"She's still small, Mummy." Harry mentioned one day as he gazed down at Ixora a few months after her birth.

“She’ll grow, sweetheart.” Lily reassured her son as she smiled up at her little boy and patted his head with her free hand, “All babies are small for a while.....then they get older and stop being babies.”

As Severus passed by in the hallway, he stopped to peer into the nursery and listen to the conversation.

“.....Like me.” Harry nodded.

“Yes, sweetheart.” Lily said with an amused grin, “Like you and your brothers.....Ixora will grow up too.”

“.....And then she won’t be little anymore.” Harry blinked.

“That’s right.” Lily smiled.

As Ixora let go of her breast, she quickly wiped the baby’s lips and covered herself before she looked at Harry and asked, “Would you like to hold her, love?”

Harry’s eyes widened as he shook his head at his mother.

Lily couldn’t hold back her laughter as she studied the anxious expression on her young son’s face.

“Why are you laughing, Mummy?” Harry frowned.

“I’m laughing because you haven’t held your sister since she’s been born, sweetheart.” She explained, “Your father and I would help you sit so you don’t drop her. She won’t bite, you know.....not yet.” Lily added with a wink.

“I’m afraid of hurting her, Mummy.” Harry confessed as he kept his frown.

Severus shifted on his feet as he watched and listened.

The seriousness in her little boy’s voice wiped the grin off of Lily’s face as she looked at Harry.

“.....You’re a good Mummy and Daddy is a good Daddy.” Harry shrugged, “I’m not a Daddy, so I don’t know if I could hold my sister or not without hurting her.”

Lily’s green eyes softened as she brushed a few strands of Harry’s hair out of his face as she breathed, “Oh, sweetheart.....”

Her little boy’s words made her heart melt as she marveled at the sweet soul that her love for Severus had brought into the world.

Lily beamed at Harry as she asked him, “.....You know what, Harry?”

“What?” Harry asked curiously as he gazed at his mother.

“I think that one day, after you’ve grown to be a fine man, you are going to be the best Daddy in the entire world.” Lily smiled.

“No, Mummy, that can’t happen.” Harry frowned.

“Why not?” Lily asked.

“Because my Daddy is the best Daddy in the entire world.” Harry blinked.

Lily glanced over at Severus and felt a lump form in her throat at the smouldering pride she saw in her alpha’s eyes.

Severus couldn’t put into words how his son’s statement made him feel.

After a lifetime of rejection and loneliness, it amazed Severus that his current situation had become his reality.

How was it possible that he had amassed a fortune, built a fine house, and enjoyed the pleasure of loving Lily while they created so many beautiful children together?

Lily sniffed when she saw repressed tears glittering in Severus’s black gaze.

She slowly stood from the rocking chair and placed her hand gently on Harry’s shoulder.

“Come on, love.” Lily urged her eldest child while she walked Harry over to the plush sofa in the corner of the large nursery, “Sit down and I’ll have your father help you learn how to be a good Daddy like him.”

Harry glanced up at his mother before he did as she asked and obediently sat down on the sofa.

All Lily had to do was glance towards the doorway to signal Severus.

He glided over to his mate and pups with a look of deep concern on his pale face while he helped Lily slip their tiny daughter into Harry’s waiting arms.

Harry was extremely careful with his little sister.

He gazed down at her with wide eyes once Severus and Lily took a step back.

“There you are, sweetheart!” Lily smiled at Harry, “You’re doing wonderfully!”

“Make sure you support her head.....there.” Severus nodded at his son as Harry gently kept his hand behind the baby’s round head.

Harry glanced up at his parents before his eyes flickered back down to the infant in his care.

Tiny Ixora blinked up at her brother as a happy smile washed over her small face.

She let out a happy squeal of delight as she raised a chubby fist to her mouth.

“I think she likes me!” Harry laughed as he looked up at Severus and Lily.

“Of course she does, darling! She loves you.” Lily said with calm confidence.

As they watched their children interact, Severus slipped his arm around Lily’s lower back to hold her close while she placed a hand on his chest and leaned her head against him.

It wasn’t Severus’s usual preference to show exaggerated affection in front of the children, but Lily giggled as he bent his head and kissed her lips.

She knew that her alpha’s tender gesture conveyed the same sense of joy that she felt.

While Harry cuddled Ixora, Severus slyly tightened his hold on Lily.

She welcomed his embrace as they glanced behind themselves at the triplets, then back to Harry and his sister.

Together, Mr. and Mrs. Snape marveled at the lovely family their love had produced.

Caring for a baby and four toddlers presented nearly as many challenges as raising one girl with four boys.

There was rarely a dull moment or mundane day in the Snape household as at least one of the children constantly had something to say, do, need, or ask.

Neither Lily nor Severus had lived in such a large family during their own youth.

They relied on each other to learn how to manage their brood as time went by.

The boys, especially the triplets, were energetic and playful, but Lily knew ways to calm them down.

As a way to keep them out of trouble, Severus began giving his sons instructions on making harmless potions and elixirs during Ixora’s feeding sessions and naps.

His little ones would always blink at him in mystified confusion during their lessons, which prompted Severus to wonder how much of his teachings they would actually absorb.

Bedtime was a wonderfully exhausting affair as the three adults cleaned, dressed, and readied all five of the Snape children for sleep each night.

Storytime with Gwendolyn’s ghost remained a household favourite.

Lily and Severus felt grateful to use that nightly entertainment as motivation for their sons to cooperate.

One evening, as the boys snoozed in their beds and Eileen read in her room, Lily walked around the nursery while she finished rocking Ixora to sleep.

As she leaned over the side of the cot and laid her small daughter down for the night, she heard a velvet voice whisper in her ear, “It pains me to know that one day, she’ll be as beautiful as her mother.”

Lily glanced over at Severus with a smirk as she chuckled, “I’m not beautiful, Sev. Look at her.....she’s perfect!”

She rested her palm on the rail of Ixora’s cot while they gazed down at their baby for a moment.

Silently, Severus placed his hand over Lily’s.

“.....Do you not want your daughter to be beautiful?” Lily asked.

Severus lifted Lily’s hand and swept her against him as he gave her a loving kiss.

Lily happily kissed him back until he pulled away with a frown and honestly stated, “No.....I’d rather her be homely.....In the years to come, I can already envision the swarm of alphas from which I’ll need to shield her.”

“You’re overthinking things a bit, Sev.” Lily giggled as he led her out of Ixora’s nursery, “She can’t even walk yet.”

“I’m practical.” Severus defended himself, “I have a terrible feeling that the time will pass too quickly.”

Together, they walked down the hall, entered their bedroom, and closed their door.

Lily began to undress for bed as she asked Severus with a flirtatious glance, “Let’s not worry about it for tonight, shall we?”

Severus unfastened the buttons on his robes, but his fingers fumbled over one another as his attention focused on his omega and her beguiling, supple curves as she wriggled out of her dress.

He noticed that his wife made no motions to clothe herself in her nightgown as she crawled into her nest bare, lay on her back, and sighed.

Slowly, after she felt her alpha’s gaze travel over her, Lily let her knees part.

As soon as he had finished unfastening the many buttons on his clothing, Severus hurriedly threw his robes to the floor and pulled off his trousers.

Lily’s delicious giggle echoed through the air as Severus walked towards his beloved flower with his black eyes smouldering.

He fell to his knees as he crawled over his mate and captured her lips in a loving kiss.

In his haste, he had forgotten to remove his wedding ring.

He hadn't had time to dwell on the fine details of disrobing, Lily had been waiting for his touch and his kiss.

Severus Snape had never been able to refuse the wishes of his precious omega's heart.

Chapter 46 - Harry's Letter

Thank you for reading! I don't own any of Harry Potter! Please let me know if you enjoy!
Updates every Saturday!

No spell, charm, or curse could compare with the mystery of how time seemed to evaporate.

Severus patented more than a dozen new potions as he continued his research and expanded his own knowledge.

He and Lily attended frequent award ceremonies in honor of his many achievements.

He maintained the necessary documentation to keep his title of potions master without any direct employment in the academic world.

The apothecary continued to be a huge success while Severus cultivated his reputation as a potions genius.

It was a well-known fact that Snapes' shop sold only the highest quality ingredients.

Although Severus found himself quite busy between being a loving husband, a caring father of five, a gardener, and an independent researcher, he made it a point to stop by the apothecary at least once a week.

During his visits, Severus assisted the customers and employees as seamlessly as if he had never left his store.

Madam Browning and Ivan Vanner had continued their employment at the shop.

The apothecary's owner had treated them with such great kindness and respect that seeing him always brought smiles to their faces.

Severus and Lily watched their babies grow more and more with each passing day.

As the Snape children's formative years went by, each child began to mature.

Harry continued to have his father's dark hair and his mother's kindness, though he surprised his parents with his need to wear corrective eyeglasses.

Credence was adorable and good-natured.

Sterling was very quiet like his father.

Basil was the loudest of the triplets and enjoyed filling the house with either the sound of his running feet as he raced down the hallway or his excited shouts while he played with his brothers.

Like Sterling and Severus, Ixora was shy and reserved.

She enjoyed taking long walks through the family's expansive garden with her father.

On those walks, Severus would eagerly tell his little girl about each plant and its potential uses.

He noticed that his daughter didn't ask many questions, but she eagerly listened to and absorbed every word that he spoke.

Severus and Lily enjoyed their family as the seasons seemed to race past.

Gwendolyn of Garenwood remained a good friend of the Snapes and became a favorite playmate of all the children, especially Ixora.

There were many nights when the ghost of the muggle princess came to Severus's daughter's room.

The ghost of Gwendolyn would use her transparent hands to levitate Ixora's hairbrush and run it through the child's scarlet tresses while she told the little girl medieval stories of love and fashion.

Ixora listened to the ghost's tales as if they were lullabies.

On many nights, she couldn't get into a sound sleep until she felt the icy chill of the spirit's kiss against her cheek.

Whenever Lily saw Gwendolyn's gossamer silhouette float out of her daughter's bedroom, the two women exchanged pleasant smiles, regardless of their differing mortal states.

On the last morning of an unusually hot July, Severus and Lily took a moment to cuddle one another in bed before they began their day.

Lily sighed as she lay on Severus's chest with her arms wrapped around him.

He wore a frown as he absently combed his fingers through his wife's soft, scarlet locks while memories echoed through his mind.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Snape's eyes were wide as they clutched each other and stared at opposite walls.

"You know what today is, Lily." Severus murmured in his low, velvet voice.

"How could I possibly forget, Sev?" She asked with a mirthless chuckle.

Severus held his mate close as she sighed and whispered, "I can't believe it's been eleven years."

“I could promise anyone it had happened only yesterday.....” Severus whispered as his voice trailed off.

“I remember the look on Slughorn’s face!” Lily laughed as she reminisced about Harry’s birth, “That was James Potter’s only good deed, when he helped you get me to the infirmary.”

“From the sound of your cries, I doubted we would acquire assistance in time.” Severus mused.

“It went fast with Ixora too.” Lily remarked with a yawn.

“Yes, Mrs. Snape, you are rather efficient at bearing our children, aren’t you?” Severus asked with a smirk.

Lily looked up into Severus’s black gaze for a long moment before she answered him, “....Perhaps I wouldn’t be, love, if you weren’t quite so talented at giving me children to bear.”

The look in Severus’s eyes shifted from one of admiration to one of unbridled yearning as he listened to his wife.

Lily sucked in a breath as she felt arousal ignite in her center under the sheer intensity of Severus’s dark, brooding stare.

Before the children woke and the happy chaos of the new day began, Mr. and Mrs. Snape chose to hold a private celebration of their son’s birthday by indulging in the same pleasures that had resulted in his conception as they mated with each other in the privacy of their bed.

Smugly hiding their flushed expressions of satisfaction, Severus and Lily emerged from their room an hour later.

The Snape children relied on their parents and grandmother for academic instruction and on each other for social interaction with others their age.

While Harry, the triplets, and Ixora all went about their daily play in the massive living area on the first floor of the home, Severus watched them from the sofa.

Across the vast room, in the kitchen, Lily baked and decorated Harry’s birthday cake with Eileen’s help.

Severus’s wife kept glancing up from her work to smile at her husband and children.

Lily’s eyes softened as she looked at Harry.

As proud as she felt of her little boy, it hurt her heart to realize that eleven years had already come and gone.

After a day of engaging play with his siblings, presents from his parents and grandmother, and an unusually generous amount of chocolate frogs, Harry sat at the dinner table with his family.

In honor of Harry's birthday, the Snapes' delicious meal that evening consisted of the boy's favorites.

Pleasant chatter carried around the table while the family ate and talked.

Once the meal concluded, Lily served her son his birthday cake.

The family all gladly sang to Harry before he blew the candles out.

Lily had just started to cut through the thick layers of icing when something drifted down the chimney and clattered into the ashy hearth with a soft thud.

Everyone glanced over at the fireplace before Severus threw Lily an apprehensive scowl.

"Oh, Sev.....!" She gasped.

"What is it, Mum?" Harry blinked.

The triplets and Ixora frowned, but Eileen wore a knowing smile.

"Why don't you go and see, love?" Lily nodded at Harry.

Harry blinked at his mother before he stood from his chair and walked over to the fireplace.

As he went, he listened to his parents' conversation.

"Surely it hasn't arrived already....." Severus drawled as a frown crept over his pale face.

"Why not, Sev? We both had our letters delivered when we were eleven.....Remember?" Lily asked her husband.

Harry reached the fireplace, picked the parchment out of the ashes, and stared at it curiously.

"What is it, brother?" Ixora asked from the table.

"It's.....It's a letter." Harry stammered.

"We can see that." Credence frowned, "What sort of letter comes at night?"

"The post from the Owlery must have run late today." Lily nodded at Severus.

"That.....or the bird became confused." Severus replied.

Lily shrugged as Harry turned the envelope over and read the address.

"Well, love?" Lily asked with an eager smile, "Who's the letter from? What's it say? Tell us! We're all waiting!"

Harry glanced up at his mother before he slit the envelope and pulled out the paper it held.

Behind his glasses, his eyes widened as he read the letter's message.

Under the table, Severus grasped Lily's hand.

She responded with an excited squeeze as they witnessed their eldest child hit another milestone in his life.

Eileen kept her smile, but Harry's siblings scowled as their patience grew short.

"What does it say, Harry?"

"Who's it from?!"

"Are you going to tell us or not?"

"Brother!"

Harry didn't take his eyes off the parchment as he read the lines it contained out loud:

Dear Mr. Harry Snape,

You are formally invited to enroll in Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry to begin your magical education. Please take note of the necessary supplies listed on the back of this letter. You should have them in your possession when you report to Platform Nine and Three-Quarters on the twenty-first of August for the beginning of the academic term.

Kind Regards,

Albus Dumbledore, Headmaster of Hogwarts

The adults smirked but the children all looked at each other with wide eyes in the silent moment of realization that followed.

One by one, each Snape child had shown magical ability over the years.

Harry had made the glass disappear from the windows one day when he had run a fever and felt too hot.

Ixora had accidentally floated out of the bathtub when she was two years old.

Credence, Sterling, and Basil had wept so bitterly over one of Lily's flower vases they had broken that they had managed to repair it without a hand or wand.

Severus, Lily, and even Eileen had repeatedly told the Snape children stories from their Hogwarts years.

Harry, the triplets, and Ixora all dreamed of the day that they would be called to the magical castle and begin learning more about their talents.

Happy cheers shattered the silence.

The entire Snape family rushed from the table and charged towards Harry to envelop him in a group hug of excited laughter.

Harry felt his mother and father clutch him tightly while Eileen patted his head.

His siblings jumped up and down as they hurled frantic cheers at him.

“We’re so proud of you, sweetheart!” Lily exclaimed as she warmly embraced Harry.

“You’ll do well, son.” Severus nodded with an undertone of blatant pride in his low drawl as he clamped a hand on his little boy’s shoulder.

“Thanks, Mum. Thanks, Dad.” Harry nodded with a bright smile.

As Harry turned to address his siblings, Severus and Lily took the opportunity to exchange a brief kiss.

Lily and Severus had known that their son would soon be receiving his Hogwarts letter, yet the moment had felt far more emotional than they had anticipated.

It seemed bittersweet to Mr. and Mrs. Snape, knowing that their children were growing up.

Chapter 47 - Professor Snape

Thank you for reading! I don't own any of Harry Potter! Please let me know if you enjoy!
Updates every Saturday!

For the next three weeks, the Snape household buzzed with excitement.

Although Harry was the only one headed to Hogwarts, his siblings lived vicariously through their older brother as they all eagerly followed him through his preparations for school.

The triplets and Ixora were as excited as Harry when the family went shopping in Diagon Alley.

The other Snape children watched in fascinated awe as Harry purchased his wand, robes, school books, cauldron, and a plethora of other various supplies.

On the Saturday before Harry needed to appear at King's Crossing, Severus took it upon himself to pay a private visit to the castle.

While Hogwarts remained devoid of a student population, the faculty and staff had already resumed their posts as they readied for the new school year.

The hem of Severus's black cloak swept elegantly over the stone floors as he walked down the winding staircase to the dungeon and glided through the darkened corridors.

Severus stretched out a hand and pushed open the wooden door once he reached the very end of the hallway.

As the door to the Potions Classroom opened, a voice called out fondly, "Severus, my boy! How very good to see you again!"

Severus nodded at his old teacher as he stalked into the room and replied, "Professor Slughorn, I trust that you're doing well.....It's been several months since our last meeting at the Ministry."

"It has been indeed, it has been indeed!" Professor Slughorn nodded with a kind smile at his favourite former student.

His cheerful expression didn't last long as he turned back to his desk and began to place several books into a waiting, enchanted, carpet bag.

Severus couldn't help but frown as he watched, "Sir, I've come to ask you something of great importance."

"Is it about the formula for that new heart repair potion of yours, Severus?" Slughorn blinked as he looked up. He narrowed his eyes and raised his hand to point a finger as he went on,

“I’ve said it once and I’ll say it again.... You may not believe me, but I think that two juseen beetles will do it, not three..... Three will leave a horrible aftertaste in the drinker’s mouth, I assure you..... I made a similar mistake in my youth on an anti-itching formula once.”

“I appreciate your wisdom, but with all due respect, sir, I haven’t come to discuss brewing techniques.” Severus politely replied.

“Oh?” Professor Slughorn blinked, “What have you come for then, Severus?”

Severus took a silent breath.

His chest swelled with pride while he spoke, “In a week, my eldest son will be starting as a first year student.”

“Oh.....” Slughorn nodded. As realization set in, another wide smile crossed his lips as he laughed and exclaimed, “Oh! Well, congratulations, Severus! I’m sure the lad will make you and his mother very proud!”

“Of that, I have little doubt.” Severus drawled, “However..... as Head of Slytherin and the boy’s potions instructor, Professor Slughorn, I’ve come to ask you to watch over my son..... I know his mother is as nervous as I am about him leaving our nest..... We trust no other to look after him here as well as we trust you.”

Severus tried not to smirk when he noticed that Professor Slughorn’s cheeks pinkened as a result of the compliments he received.

“Severus.....” Slughorn began with a deep sigh.

Severus braced himself for a long-winded speech, but Slughorn surprised him instead with a bittersweet smile and a sad refusal, “It would be an honor to look after the boy, but I’m afraid..... I..... I can’t.”

Professor Slughorn watched his former student furrow his brow

A frown crossed Severus’s pale face while he replied, “..... May I ask why not, sir?”

“Well, you see,” Slughorn laughed as he looked around and threw up his hands, “I’m retiring before the start of the term! I meant to write to you about it, but it came up all of a sudden. I have a family matter to tend to along the coast and I..... I just won’t have the ability to continue my academic career, at least for the time being.”

Severus glanced around the room suspiciously.

His black eyes narrowed as he noticed more evidence of what Slughorn had mentioned.

The vials of ingredients that would normally line the walls had been placed into boxes.

Cauldrons hung in neat rows on magical lifts that could easily be moved and transported.

Severus had assumed the disheveled state of the room had been the result of arrangements for the start of classes, but Professor Slughorn had other plans.

“You’re leaving Hogwarts, then?” Severus asked incredulously.

“It seems that way, yes.” Professor Slughorn nodded.

Severus scowled at his former teacher as he demanded, “Who will take your place?”

Slughorn shrugged as he replied, “I’m not sure.”

“Who will be the new Head of Slytherin?” Severus pressed.

“I’m not sure of that either.” Slughorn shrugged again as he turned back to his packing.

“Have they told you nothing about your successor?” Severus asked as his vexation increased, “I would have imagined that Hogwarts would have the decency to-“

“-Severus.” Slughorn interrupted as he looked up from his work and faced his former student.

The weariness in Professor Slughorn’s stressed expression almost made Severus feel ashamed to have confronted him at all.

“I haven’t been given any information whatsoever on my replacement.....nothing.” He said as he swallowed and frowned, “I would urge you to take your inquiries to the headmaster himself. He will most likely be more knowledgeable about what’s to come after my departure. Now, help me with these, will you?”

Severus frowned as he started to assist his mentor with the remaining tasks of readying the room’s contents to be moved.

Professor Slughorn had never actually been Severus’s favourite teacher but he felt grateful for all the help he had given him over the years, not to mention the familiarity he offered.

It felt bizarre to Severus that Professor Slughorn would no longer be the potions instructor at Hogwarts.

Before he left the castle, Severus found himself seated in the Headmaster’s office as he regarded Albus Dumbledore.

“I remember you well, Severus.” Dumbledore began, “I’ve heard much about your fascinating accomplishments over the years.....It is my understanding that your son, Harry, will be joining us for the new term.....I’m sure the boy will be as bright as his parents.”

“Thank you, Headmaster.” Severus nodded.

“And yet.....parents do not visit my office without concerns on their minds. I’m waiting for you to tell me yours.” Dumbledore said with a knowing smile.

“Professor Slughorn has informed me of his imminent retirement.” Severus frowned, “He suggested I speak with you to discover whom I can expect to have as my son’s Potions Master and Head of Slytherin?”

Dumbledore stared at Severus for a long, silent moment.

Severus frowned in response.

“To be honest with you, Severus,” Dumbledore began, “Professor Slughorn’s retirement has come at a most inopportune time. I have already decided to take over both roles myself until I find the right wizard or witch for the job.”

Severus kept his frown as a sly smirk crossed Dumbledore’s face while he asked, “You don’t happen to know of anyone who may be interested in such positions, do you?”

Severus was no fool.

He furrowed his brow as he shrewdly realized what Dumbledore alluded to as he asked, “Surely Headmaster.....you aren’t offering those titles to me?”

Eileen, Lily, Harry, Ixora, and the triplets all blinked at Severus in disbelief after he told them the news that night during dinner.

The triplets were the first to break the silence as they spoke to each other in hushed whispers.

“Do you think Dad’s joking?”

“Dad doesn’t joke.”

“Is he really going to be a professor?”

Ixora smiled softly as she looked at her father and said, “Congratulations, Daddy.”

“Thank you, my darling,” Severus nodded at his youngest child.

“Sev, this is.....this is wonderful!” Lily exclaimed with a sigh of forced joy.

She refused to let her own selfish desire to keep her alpha at her side interfere with what was best for his career and their family.

“I’m so proud of you, son!” Eileen smiled.

“So you’ll be teaching me potions then, Dad?” Harry blinked.

“Well, as the newly hired Potions Master of Hogwarts and Head of Slytherin, I should think so.” Severus drawled as he stared at Harry, “.....Are you displeased?”

“No.” Harry said quickly as a bright smile came across his face, “I think it’s brilliant!”

Severus smirked while Lily grabbed his hand and gave it a squeeze.

“Having you at school will make it easier, you know.....to leave home.” Harry shrugged.

“I’m glad you’re not angry, son.” Severus nodded.

The sweet sentiment that came from the bond between father and son, parent and child filled the room until Credence interrupted with a jealous pout while he whined, “.....I want to go to Hogwarts too.”

“A year or two more, sweetheart.” Lily reassured her little boy as laughter issued from around the table, “A year or two more.”

Lily continued to focus on feeling happy, not sad, while she and Severus readied for bed later that evening.

Regardless, wistfulness filled her heart as she contemplated the undeniable fact that soon, her alpha would be gone during the day, every day, for months on end.

Occasional meetings at the Ministry and visits to their apothecary had been nowhere near as restrictive to their time together.

She had just slipped off her dress and unhooked her bra when Severus glided up behind her to clasp the supple, velvet weight of her breasts in his large hands.

Lily drew in a breath as a smile crossed her lips when she inhaled her alpha’s soothing scent.

Severus gently nudged her head to the side and placed sweet, delicate kisses along her exposed throat.

The view of Lily’s lovely neck leading to the soft skin of her chest and the tempting warmth of her breasts made his trousers tighten.

He ignored his instincts long enough to whisper to his mate in a low growl, “I waited to tell you the best part of my dealings from the day, my love.”

“Oh?” Lily asked. Her breath hitched as Severus pinched one of her nipples between two fingers, “.....W-What’s that, Sev?”

“Professor Dumbledore is allowing me the luxury of bringing an assistant.” Severus whispered, “There’s a spare room that Slughorn has been using as a study area.....you can be with me at the castle every day, Lily. We can even bring Ixora and the triplets from time to time.”

Between her alpha’s statement and his gentle attentions, a happy cry escaped Lily’s throat as Severus bent forward and planted a possessive kiss at the base of her delicate throat.

Lily whimpered as she felt his arms wrap around her while she leaned against him in eager anticipation.

That night, Severus and Lily made love to one another until sweat dripped down their backs.

Their lips stung from the many kisses they had exchanged.

After their pleasurable exertions had ended, they slept snuggled together.

Severus dreamed of the adventures he and his lover would have with their children at the castle.

Lily woke once during the night and blinked as she slowly remembered that her hand and cheek lay against Severus's chest.

She listened to the rain that fell softly outside their window before she pressed a loving kiss over her husband's heart, pulled the blanket up to her shoulders, and closed her eyes to go back to sleep.

Severus was Lily's world, and he was there with her.....that meant everything was alright.

Chapter 48 - Harry and Hogwarts

Thank you for reading! I don't own any of Harry Potter! Please let me know if you enjoy!
Updates every Saturday!

On Harry's first night at Hogwarts, Severus and Lily sat side by side at the High Table while they watched their son enter the Great Hall as he walked in the long line of first year students.

Professor Albus Dumbledore waited at the headmaster's podium.

The elderly wizard opened his arms in a wide, welcoming gesture, cleared his throat, and greeted the castle's inhabitants, "I would like to welcome you all to another year of learning at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry!"

Applause erupted around the room but quickly died away as the headmaster nodded and went on, "Our staff and returning students are well-acquainted with our school. However, for our first years, I would like to introduce myself as Professor Albus Dumbledore, Headmaster of Hogwarts."

Harry listened with wide eyes as Dumbledore turned and began to identify each of the teachers as they stood individually from their seats once he pointed to them.

"Also," Dumbledore called once he came to Severus and Lily, "As an announcement, I would like to introduce our new Potions Master, Severus Snape, along with his assistant and wife, Lily Snape. Let's give them both a warm welcome, shall we?"

Applause erupted around the Great Hall once more.

Severus smirked, not from the attention, but from the pride he saw on Harry's face.

Lily smiled over at Severus after she glanced between him and Harry.

As Professor Dumbledore concluded his opening remarks, a great amount of shuffling occurred as everyone prepared to begin the Sorting Hat Ceremony.

Lily grinned at her little boy.

To her, it seemed like only yesterday that she had carried Harry in her womb as she had walked through the castle's ancient halls.

A few moments later, Severus and Lily clutched each other's hands underneath the High Table while Harry waited for his name to be called after the student in front of him had been sorted.

“.....Harry Snape!” McGonagall shouted as the other boy stood from the stool and walked away.

Harry glanced at his parents for a split second.

Lily gave him a slight nod of reassurance, which prompted him to step forward.

“Go on, then, Mr. Snape.” McGonagall instructed as she pointed towards the wooden seat while she held the magical object in her arms, “Have a seat and I’ll place the Sorting Hat on your head.”

Harry nodded before he obediently sat down.

Severus furrowed his brow as he watched McGonagall plop the Sorting Hat onto his eldest son.

Lily pursed her lips anxiously.

The Sorting Hat wriggled its brim and contorted its tattered face while it thought out loud, “Hmm.....lots of ambition.....loads of courage, I see.....but where to put you?”

Underneath the High Table, Severus and Lily squeezed each other’s hands again in a gesture of acknowledged nervousness.

Harry took a deep breath as he tried to gather his thoughts.

At that moment, he no longer considered himself, only his family.

He hoped that he would be placed into either Ravenclaw or Hufflepuff to avoid disappointing his parents, but to his horror, he discovered his musings were not private from the Sorting Hat.

“Unfortunately, I can’t place you into Hufflepuff or Ravenclaw, my dear boy.....I’m very sorry.” The Sorting Hat called out loudly.

Whispers hurried through the Great Hall as Harry’s cheeks pinkened from embarrassment.

Severus and Lily glanced at each other in shock.

“I would say Slytherin.....” The Sorting Hat mused as it curled its brim in thought, “.....But there’s just too much of.....No.....Better be.....GRYFFINDOR!”

As those seated at the Gryffindor table cheered, Lily shouted triumphantly with them.

Her shrill scream of victory startled Severus as he jumped in his seat and scowled over at his wife.

McGonagall removed the Sorting Hat from Harry’s head as he stood from the stool.

Before he walked over to the Gryffindor table, he turned back and looked at his parents.

Lily clapped with a bright smile on her face.

Severus stoically nodded at his son.

Harry resisted the urge to frown as he gazed at his father.

The next day, at the end of Harry's first Potions class, Severus and Lily approached him while he collected his books as his classmates exited the room.

"Mum, Dad." Harry greeted his parents.

"How's your first day, sweetheart?" Lily asked in a whisper, "Getting on alright?"

"Fine, yeah, thanks." He smiled at his mother.

Harry frowned up at Severus, which caused his father to mirror his bleak expression.

"You two were brilliant....especially you, Dad." He mentioned as he nodded at Severus.

Severus bristled with pride as his son scooped his belongings into his arms, blinked at them, and shrugged, "Well, I suppose I should be heading to my next class. I understand the greenhouse is a bit of a walk from here."

".....Sweetheart?" Lily pouted, "Your father and I have a question we'd like to ask you first."

"Oh?" Harry replied as he felt his heart sink.

He had dreaded confronting Severus since his sorting the previous night.

Although Severus hadn't mentioned it, Harry feared that his father had been displeased by the house in which he had been placed.

"Why did..." Lily started to ask before she laughed and finished, "...Why did you want to be put into Hufflepuff or Ravenclaw, Harry?"

Harry's eyes widened as he glanced between Severus and Lily.

"Well, I....." He started to reply.

"You don't have to be frightened of us, son." Severus drawled.

Harry sighed before he admitted, "I didn't want to be placed in Gryffindor or Slytherin.....because I didn't want either of you to be disappointed in me."

Severus and Lily both frowned.

"Sweetheart! Why would we be disappointed in you?!" Lily gasped.

“Because you were in Gryffindor, Mum.....and you were in Slytherin, Dad!” Harry gasped, “If the Hat put me in either house, I knew one of you would be upset!”

“Your mother and I would never be upset by your sorting, regardless of the outcome.” Severus frowned.

“Your father’s right, Harry. We’re both very proud of you!” Lily beamed as she reached out and placed a hand comfortingly on her little boy’s shoulder, “No matter what house you’re in or what subject you like best or anything else.....Don’t worry about what our Hogwarts years were like, these are your years, sweetheart.....You will make your own story and we’ll be there to support you every step of the way.”

A single student dashed by the open dungeon door.

Severus narrowed his eyes at Harry, “You’d best be on your way if you don’t want to be late. Tell me if you’re counted as tardy and I’ll issue an excuse to Madam Sprout since your mother and I have held you after class.”

“Thanks, Dad.” Harry nodded at Severus. His green gaze flickered to Lily as he added, “I love you.....both.” Severus felt his heart clench when Harry looked over at him as he uttered that last word.

Once their son had turned and dashed out of the Potions Classroom, Lily smirked over at Severus.

She collected the first year students’ discarded assignments for grading while she commented, “.....Of course, everyone knows that Gryffindor really is the best house.”

Her statement elicited the scowl she had hoped for from Severus as he turned towards his mate, raised an eyebrow, and asked, “.....I beg your pardon, my love?”

“Gryffindor is home to the brave and the daring, Sev.” Lily shrugged.

She met his onyx stare as he glowered at her and drawled, “How unfortunate, Mrs. Snape.....it seems you need a refresher course on Hogwarts house politics after all these years away from the castle.”

“Do you think so, Professor?” Lily grinned innocently, “Perhaps then, you’d be kind enough to teach me?”

A thrilling chill crept down Lily’s spine at the way her alpha’s black eyes smouldered while an arrogant smirk crossed his thin lips.

That night, Harry slept cuddled in his new bed high in Gryffindor Tower while he dreamed of all the adventures he would have over the next seven years.

He had enjoyed most of the classes he had attended during his first day.

He had spent his free time with his new acquaintances, Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger.

Harry wore a smile on his face as he continued his pleasant slumber.

Everything he had heard about the castle had seemed to have been true.

Hogwarts was indeed a magical place.

Down in the Potions Master's office, Professor Snape and his assistant had undertaken an adventure of their own.

"Tell me, my Gryffindor queen, how will your bravery and daring benefit you now?" Severus asked Lily.

His husky, low voice curled in her ear as she hung nude, suspended in the air by billowing, smokey chains forged from the spell Severus had cast.

The Dark Arts weren't all about violence.

Fluid dripped underneath her onto the stone floor, arousal mixed with sweat, produced by the hours of pleasant torture that her cruel alpha had put her through to tease her up and over one explosive peak after another.

Lily's scarlet hair fell over her shoulders in messy tangles as she gasped for breath.

Her nipples had hardened and the softest bits of her flesh had reddened under Severus's thorough attentions.

"Does it show that much cunning to keep an omega chained, Professor?" Lily asked as Severus kissed his way down her spine and across her hip to nibble on her navel.

He let his hands gently touch the tender fronts of her fleshy thighs as his teeth scraped roughly against her skin.

Lily bucked under his ministrations, held helplessly in place by her bonds as Severus let his skilled palms sweep over her legs until his fingertips began to massage the wet center that cradled her womanhood.

Lily cried out hoarsely as Severus sent her down another path of dizzying arousal while he relentlessly attacked the places he knew would make his omega feel best.

"I don't think cunning plays a role at all, Mrs. Snape." He purred against her empty womb.

Lily bit her lip as Severus slowly withdrew his fingers.

She soon discovered the absence of his affections seemed unbearable as the stimulation that kept her heart thumping mercilessly vanished.

Lily scowled down at her alpha as he looked into her eyes.

There was a possessive darkness in Severus's black stare that excited Lily all the way down to her soaking core as he raised his hands with her arousal glistening on his fingers.

Wordlessly, he commanded her bonds to move until her knees parted and bent to expose her aching center directly to his access.

"In my professional opinion.....Mrs. Snape," Severus said slowly as his black eyes flickered down to stare obscenely into his mate's waiting, dilated center. Lily drew in a sharp breath as he raised his gaze to meet hers once more as he drawled in his decadently smooth voice, "It's really more a matter of.....ambition."

Severus dove forward to plunge his face into Lily's womanhood.

She screamed out in a frustrated cry of joyful anguish as her back arched while she fought against the blinding urge to tangle her hands in her husband's silky, black hair while he worshiped her.

The Silencing Charm that had been cast on Severus's office held strong as Professor Snape showed his assistant the true value of Slytherin qualities.

Lily had been brave enough to provoke her alpha and in response, Severus had made his omega his ambition.

Chapter 49 - It's Time

Thank you for reading! I don't own any of Harry Potter! Please let me know if you enjoy!
Updates every Saturday!

Hermione and Ron quickly became Harry's best friends.

Due to the outgoing personality traits he had inherited from Lily, his social circle eventually grew to be wide and outreaching.

Severus and Lily felt a profound sense of pride when their little boy joined Gryffindor's Quidditch team as one of the youngest Seekers in recent history.

A couple of years later, the triplets and Ixora came to the castle as they each began their magical education.

Credence, Basil, and Sterling were all sorted into Slytherin, much to their father's delight.

Ixora became the first member of the Snape family to be placed into Ravenclaw.

Regardless, Severus and Lily applauded eagerly on the night they watched their only daughter walk over and join her witty housemates at the appropriate table.

With the children all away at school, Eileen and Gwendolyn often spent their days chatting with each other while they waited on Severus and Lily to return for the evening.

Neither Severus's mother nor the ghost complained, but the large house did seem depressingly empty without the sound of little one's laughter.

One evening during Harry's fourth year, Severus sat in his office next to Lily while they both graded a massive pile of essays submitted from several classes earlier that day.

The candles burned while Professor Snape and his assistant shrewdly read over each student's work.

Severus had to admit, out of all his children, Ixora had turned in the most comprehensive answer to the assigned prompt.

He gladly finished grading her paper with very few marks from his editing quill.

After a while, Lily began to feel uncomfortable in her seat until she lifted her eyes.

She laughed when she discovered that Severus gazed at her intently.

"Sev!" Lily laughed as she looked at her alpha, "What's the matter, love?"

“You seem unhappy, Lily.” Severus frowned.

“Unhappy.....?” She asked, “Whatever have I done to give you that idea?”

“I’ve noticed your smile fades as the children age.” Severus commented as he kept his frown.

“Well, no omega is thrilled at having their nest emptied, Sev.” Lily chuckled, “That’s part of life, I suppose. I’m proud of all our little ones, even though they’re not quite so little anymore.”

Severus stared at Lily as she looked down at the essay she held and sighed, “Before you know it, they’ll all be graduated.....Then they’ll be married and we’ll have little ones again, I suppose...as grandchildren.....I’m sure your mother and Gwendolyn will be elated, I know I will be!”

Lily scowled as she moved to make a mark on the paper she studied, but Severus caught her hand before she could press her quill to the parchment.

She looked up suddenly and blinked as she met her husband’s gaze again.

“.....Sev?” Lily asked.

In one elegant motion, Severus stood from his seat, walked around his desk, and knelt in front of his wife.

Lily laid her quill down and smiled softly at Severus.

She thoughtfully reached out and began to run her hands through his raven-black hair.

“My love, you know I’d do anything to please you.” Severus whispered.

“I know, my darling.” Lily nodded as she smiled warmly, “And I’d do anything for you.....I’m alright, Sev, you don’t need to fret.....Do we not spend every day together? Is that not a wonderful gift most couples don’t receive? Aren’t our children healthy?....We’re very fortunate!”

“If it is your desire, Lily, I’ll give you another pup.” Severus whispered in his low purr of a voice.

Lily’s eyes widened as her cheeks turned red.

“A....Another....pup?” She asked in disbelief.

“Would that bring your smile back, my love?” Severus asked quickly, “.....To lie in your nest with your belly full of our children once more?”

The notion clearly caught Lily off guard as she shook her head and replied, “Sev, I.....I haven’t even thought about that at all! What.....I mean, what would we do? We’re settled here, with our jobs and the children.....Another baby would disrupt everything.”

Severus took Lily's hand in his, raised it to his lips, and pressed a delicate kiss to the back of her knuckles.

"I only want to make you happy, Lily." He told his mate with genuine sincerity.

As he stared into her beautiful face, his onyx gaze shimmered with a soft sadness.

Lily leaned forward and gave her husband a deep, romantic kiss before he stood to his feet, walked back over to his desk, and resumed his seat.

Silently, he and Lily returned to their task of grading papers, although they held each other's hands while they continued.

"Hey, Sev?" Lily asked as she broke the silence.

".....Yes?" Severus replied after he looked up from his work.

"Perhaps another child would be too much of a distraction now.....but.....that may not be so later?" Lily frowned.

"Whatever pleases you will please me, my love." Severus responded honestly.

It delighted him to watch the brilliant smile that spread across Lily's pink lips as she gazed at him.

Severus had plenty of money.

Since all of his children had settled into the castle, he no longer viewed his role as Potions Master to be completely necessary should another matter demand his presence elsewhere, such as a pregnant Lily at home.

He would gladly fill his mate with more of their little ones whenever she wanted.

Truthfully, Lily would have asked Severus to bend her over the desk then and there in an attempt to grow their family further, but she knew they needed to wait.

The children were at school and they were near them.

To Lily, she felt as though she would be committing an act of thoughtlessness to focus on a new baby instead of her others during their teenage years.

Once the last of the essays had been graded and the candles had nearly burned out, Professor Snape and his assistant ended up in each other's arms.

They braced themselves against the stone wall of the dungeon while they coupled.

Although the goal of conception had been temporarily set aside, that didn't stop Severus or Lily from expressing their love for each other.

Love.

Professor Snape and his wife both relished the wonderful feeling of sharing the unconditional love they held for one another.

Harry's graduation came three years later.

The entire Snape family watched him participate in the ceremony before he rode back across the Black Lake for the final time in one of Hogwarts' boats.

Severus and Lily had felt nervous but proud once they had learned Harry had enrolled in the Auror programme a few months later.

As dangerous as their eldest son's career would be, they both understood the respect Harry would garner from his efforts at cleaning up crime in the wizarding world.

The triplets were the next to graduate.

Credence, Sterling, and Basil had become known as the "Brewing Brothers" during their Hogwarts days due to the immense talents they displayed in Potions.

As soon as the triplets had finished their magical education, they immediately took over Bezoars and Brewing Apothecary.

Together, they worked with Madam Browning and Ivan to expand their parents' business.

Severus felt a nearly haughty jolt of pride course through his system whenever anyone mentioned any of his sons or their numerous accomplishments.

Ixora graduated last and surprised her family by taking a research internship at the Department of Magical Studies.

Severus and Lily were no less proud that their little girl had chosen a career in academia with the intention of one day becoming a Hogwarts professor.

Although the Snape children had grown to be skilled, happy, and healthy, their parents had been left with a startlingly vacant home.

Harry had rented a flat with Ron.

The triplets had decided to stay in the upstairs apartment above the apothecary.

Ixora had chosen to inhabit a dormitory at the site of her internship.

Except for Eileen and Gwendolyn's ghost, Severus and Lily were alone in their large house.

Severus knew it had to be coming.

He felt a natural amount of apprehension, although his instincts raged at him to process nothing but raw excitement in response to the idea.

He quelled his own emotions while he waited on his wife, who seemed to become more discontented with each passing day.

Lily had given herself the time she needed.

She had birthed Harry incredibly young.

Witches had the luxury of more childbearing years than muggle women anyway.

A year or so after Ixora's graduation, Lily's body finally acquiesced to the desires of her heart and mind.

Severus had run an errand in Hogsmeade one morning while his mother had tea with Gwendolyn's ghost as Lily slept in late.

He had continued his teaching position out of a lack of other engagements, which made late mornings a special privilege for the couple.

As soon as Severus returned home from his quick trip, his black eyes widened once he stepped into the house.

His mouth fell open.

Saliva pooled under his tongue in response to the delicious scent that wafted through the air.

Severus dropped the bag in his arms to the floor.

He barely remembered to close the front door before he staggered up the stairs with his dark eyes still wide and his mouth agape.

He glided down the hallway towards the bedroom he shared with Lily, threw open the door, and charged inside.

Arousal shot through his groin as his dark gaze fell on his mate.

Lily had made a nest on the floor and from it, she stared up at him with her green eyes shining brightly.

Severus swallowed thickly as the scent of her heat threatened to erase all logical thought from his mind.

Lily whimpered as she lay back in her nest, naked, and wriggled her fleshy hips against the sheets.

To Severus, the blush on her cheeks seemed like a brilliant compliment to her vibrant, scarlet hair.

"Oh, Sev....." Lily whispered as she closed her eyes and let her knees spread, ".....It's time."

Severus needed no further motivation as he lunged forward and took his mate into his arms.

There were a variety of charms, potions, and salves that could have been used by the couple as contraceptives.

Mr. and Mrs. Snape purposely avoided all of them as they mated with the same ferocity they had during their very first encounter, all those years ago, in the Room of Requirement.

They had been little more than scared children then.

However, as Lily clawed Severus's back and his hungry mouth threatened to chew her reddened nipples off, they both delighted in the intimate privileges that had resulted from their mating bond.

Chapter 50 - Family

Thank you for reading! I don't own any of Harry Potter! Please let me know if you enjoy!

"Do you think it's over?" Ixora asked as she gazed up at the ceiling nervously.

"I don't hear anymore shouting." Harry frowned as he glanced up at the ceiling too.

Sterling, Credence, and Basil wore similar looks of anguished concern as they sat on the sofa in the downstairs of the Snape family's large home and waited with their siblings.

After hours of anxious, alarming noises, silence echoed throughout the grand house.

The moment became almost unbearably nerve-wracking until footsteps sounded as Severus glided across the hallway and down the staircase.

He frowned at his adult children as he arrived at the landing, nodded at them all, and ordered, "Come."

"Is Mum alright?" Ixora asked nervously.

Severus had already turned on his heel and began his walk back up the stairs before he took the time to respond.

Ixora and her brothers exchanged worried frowns before they all scrambled to follow their father.

After they journeyed up the stairs and down the hallway with their hearts clenched in worry, the Snape children crashed into their parents' bedroom with anguished expressions marring their faces.

Severus wore a prideful smirk while he watched their eyes widen as their gazes fell on Lily, who sat in her nest with a whimpering baby in her arms.

"I would like to introduce you all to your new sister, Lily Chrysanthemum Snape." Severus said proudly as he walked over and sat behind his wife.

Gwendolyn's ghost beamed down at the family while she floated close to the ceiling.

Eileen whispered to the midwife as the magical healthcare worker packed her freshly cleaned supplies into her bag.

The anxious expressions on the Snape children's faces were replaced by looks of joy as they cautiously approached and asked their mother question after curious question.

Lily's cheeks still held the flush her labour had caused, but she patiently answered each one of her children and watched as they all held the new baby.

Later, Harry cuddled little Chrysanthemum while the triplets and Ixora looked on.

Severus gently pulled Lily against him while they watched Harry and his siblings.

“You did well, my love.” He whispered in his wife’s ear as he pressed a gentle kiss to her neck, “She’s as lovely as her mother.”

“I couldn’t have done it without you.” Lily whispered with a quiet laugh as she moved her head and kissed her alpha’s cheek while she sighed happily, “I love you, Severus.”

“And I love you, Lily.” Severus whispered back as he took the opportunity offered by his children’s distraction to press a loving kiss to his wife’s plump lips.

Although the Snape family had continued to grow and retained the potential to become even larger, all of its members were happy and healthy.

As Severus and Lily saw their children bond with each other, they had never felt more in love.

Severus and Lily belong to one another, with one another.....always.

Thank you so much for reading and following this work! I really appreciate all of your kindness and support! I hope you’ve enjoyed reading this as much as I’ve enjoyed writing it! I do have a new Snily story that will start next week! If it interests you at all, I hope you’ll consider checking it out! Thanks again!

End Notes

A huge thank you to MissKM, fellow author and friend, for being my beta on this story!

Works inspired by this one

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